

OUTPOST

February 2011—Issue #240

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

Seizing the High Ground

Herbert Zweibon

“Let me first tell you one thing: It doesn’t matter what the world says about Israel; the only thing that matters is that we can exist here on the land of our forefathers.” Ben Gurion said this in 1953 to comfort Ariel Sharon who had shortly before, in response to attacks by terrorists (then called Fedayeen) led a raid on Qibya in Jordan producing a worldwide storm of condemnation.

It is time for the Netanyahu government to follow Ben Gurion’s principle and tell the world it will do whatever it has to do to secure the country and its citizens. It is time an Israeli Prime Minister echoed Jabotinsky: “Who are we to justify ourselves before you and who are you to ask us questions?” Paradoxically, acting upon such a policy can only improve Israel’s standing in world opinion for well-thought out actions change the framework of debate. Think how the surge changed the debate over Iraq.

The government has taken a small but symbolically important step in (finally!) demolishing the Shepherd’s Hotel in Jerusalem, making way for apartments for twenty Jewish families. Unable to wait until she returned home to address an event of such dire import, Secretary of State Clinton pounced from Abu Dhabi, saying she was “very concerned” about this “disturbing development” that “contradicts the logic of a reasonable and necessary agreement between the parties on the status of Jerusalem” (translation: is an impediment to dividing the city). The Baroness Ashton, the EU’s current Foreign Minister, declared: “I strongly condemn this morning’s demolition of the Shepherd Hotel and the planned construction of a new illegal settlement.” In this curious parlance, as Daniel Greenfield has noted, “the term ‘settlement’ no longer means a new town in an unsettled region, it now simply means a place where Jews live.”

But to change the framework of debate Israel must do more than state, as it has, that the construction is undertaken “in accordance with Israeli law” and “there should be no expectation that the State of Israel will impose a ban on Jews purchasing private property

in Jerusalem.”

Israel must emphasize the history of “the Shepherd Hotel”, for its destruction and replacement by Jewish homes is fraught with high moral symbolism. Mohammad Amin al-Husayni, the infamous Mufti of Jerusalem, who spent World War II recruiting Muslims to serve in Hitler’s SS, built it in the 1930s to serve as his private home. The building has had multiple uses under British, Jordanian and then Israeli control (a military outpost, a hotel, a courthouse). Although it was sold to would-be developer Irving Moskowitz in 1985, thanks to Israeli government foot-dragging, it has stood empty and abandoned for the last ten years, an eyesore fenced off by barbed wire. From Nazi ownership to derelict shell to homes where Jewish children will study and play—the story of this building is in a sense the story of the rebirth of the Jewish people in its homeland.

As Melanie Phillips rightfully says, Israel and its defenders “have been crippled or cowed by the false analysis of the enemy’s narrative” which has turned reality on its head, transforming the pan-Arab war of extermination against Israel into the oppression by Israel of the Palestinian people. Israel and its defenders have accepted “the demonstrably absurd proposition that a Palestine state would solve the problem,” which has the effect of putting Israel and “settlements” in the dock as the barrier to its achievement.

Israel must stop going along with the damaging diplomatic game it has been playing since Oslo. It needs a spine, a strategy, a willingness to assert and confront the truth that there is no peace process—and to act accordingly, to implement its legitimate rights to its historic land.

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From the Editor

“Mossad Vulture” Exonerated

After a vulture spent a week under arrest in Saudi Arabia, charged with being a “Mossad spy” and part of a “Zionist plot,” Prince Bandar bin Saud al Saud announced the release of the unfortunate bird. The vulture, which had strayed into Saudi Arabia, had been tagged by scientists with a leg bracelet with the damning words “Tel Aviv University” and a GPS tracker, standard in bird migration research. The embarrassed prince admitted that Saudi Arabia employed the same research techniques.

The regional governor of the Sinai has not, however, exonerated the shark that killed and maimed tourists on the Red Sea from the charge (echoed by much of the Arab world) that it had been sent by Israeli agents to sabotage the country’s tourist industry. If captured, the shark presumably faces trial by a *sharia* court.

In the meantime Egyptian and Middle Eastern media are full of reports that Israel is responsible for the New Year’s eve bombing at an Egyptian Coptic church that killed 21 worshippers. Perhaps the most convincing proof that this was an “organized Zionist scenario” was offered by Iran’s official TV outlet, Press TV: “It goes without saying that no Muslim, whatever their political leanings may be, will ever commit such an inhumane act.”

Spanish Mega-Mosques

Soeren Kern, senior analyst at the Madrid-based Strategic Studies Group, writes that Barcelona, the mecca of anti-clerical postmodernism, has agreed to build a mega-mosque to rival the massive Islamic Cultural Center in Madrid. Spain now has 13 mega-mosques and more than 1000 smaller mosques and prayer centers. This reflects the rising influence of Islam as the Muslim population has risen from 100,000 in 1990 to an estimated 1.5 million in 2010.

The Barcelona mega-mosque is being sold as the best way to fight Islamic fundamentalism. Kern quotes Nouredine Ziani, a Barcelona-based Moroccan imam: “It is easier to disseminate fundamentalist ideas in small mosques set up in garages where only the members of the congregation attend, than in large mosques that are open to everyone, with prayer rooms, cafes and meeting areas.” The only trouble with that theory is that existing Spanish mega-mosques promote poisonous Wahhabi doctrine. For example the website of the \$30 million Islamic Cultural Center in Malaga boasts headlines such as “Christian Palestine under Zionist Occupation” and “Julian Assange Victim of the Empire of Evil.” Big and small, Mosques are likely to preach radical Islam. The Madrid-based ABC newspaper reports more than 100 mosques in Spain have radical imams, with some having religious police that harass and attack those who

do not comply with Islamic law. The supposedly moderate Ziani claims it is absolutely necessary to accept Islamic values as European values and that Europeans must replace the term “Judeo-Christian” with the term “Islam-Christian.”

Muslim radicals nurture great hopes for Spain. In Cordoba, Kern notes, Muslims demand the Spanish government allow them to worship in the main cathedral, which had been a mosque during the medieval Islamic kingdom of Al-Andalus. They hope to recreate Cordoba as a pilgrimage site for Muslims throughout Europe. And in Granada, the last Muslim stronghold to fall in 1492, a great mosque has opened. According to Abdel Haqq Salaberria, the mosque’s spokesman, it will “act as a focal point for the Islamic revival in Europe,” “a symbol of a return to Islam among the Spanish people and among indigenous Europeans.”

Meanwhile, the Spanish government, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the AECID, the Spanish government’s humanitarian and development program, are sponsoring an ad on Palestinian Authority TV promoting the boycott of all Israeli products (which, now that attention has been focused on it, they disavow). Is it any wonder that, as Kern notes, anti-Semitism is on the rise in Spain?

Gun-Running UK Embassy Staff

Robin Shepherd reports that two staff members at the British consulate in Jerusalem have been arrested by Israel on charges of gun-running for Hamas terrorists who planned to cause carnage in a packed football stadium.

Shepherd is not impressed with the British government’s promise to “review” security procedures. He writes: “If the centre-piece of your interpretation of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is that Palestinian terrorism is merely the product of grievances against the ‘disproportionate’ projection of Israeli military force and the ‘illegal’ occupation of Palestinian land, rather than the product of an utterly degraded political culture infused with steadfast rejectionism of Israel’s legitimacy and the rights of Jews to live in the Middle East, it is not going to be easy to construct a
(continued on page 12)

Outpost

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Outpost is distributed free to
Members of Americans For a Safe Israel
Annual membership: \$50.

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Send In The Clowns

William Mehlman

The Peace Process is dead! Long live the Peace Process!

Only the terminally naïve would have thought an institution so venerable and with so wide a network of retainers could be shut down that easily. Put the kibosh on the longest-running show in diplomatic history? Because Mahmoud Abbas has lost interest? Because Barack Obama is grappling with 10 percent unemployment? Because Bibi Netanyahu is up to his neck in rambunctious rabbis and coalition wrestling matches?

Mere distractions. The peace process is a world unto itself- with its own oxygen supply, an industrial complex of the mind, putting bread on the table and covering the tuition bills of untold numbers of "analysts" in think tanks across the globe, along with the countless scribblers and talking-heads employed in processing their insights for general consumption. It's General Motors, AIG, the Bank of America—too big to fail. Summon the bailout crew! Send in the clowns!

As "Exhibit A," we have Isaac Herzog, Israel's Minister of Welfare and Social Services and prime contender for the shaky crown of a disintegrating Labor Party now adorning the head of Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Undaunted by the three "No's"(to Israel



Isaac Herzog

as a Jewish state, to interim borders, to "land swaps") proclaimed by the recently concluded fifth annual convention of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; by Abbas' refusal to return to the negotiating table; and by the Obama Administration's white flag after three weeks of fruitless haggling, Minister Herzog has discovered beneath the detritus of the collapsed peace talks, a "golden opportunity to reach a breakthrough for peace between Israel and the Palestinians." Moreover, he informs, "both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have come to the realization that there is such an opportunity."

The only party apparently out of the loop on said "golden opportunity" is the benighted general public—and the minister isn't dealing us in. The best he can provide is a cryptic reference to the settlement construction ado as essentially the product of a minor "misunderstanding"—a "tumult" in a teacup—and his observation that the "only real" settlement growth is in Modi'in Illit and Betar Illit, two ultra-Orthodox towns that are going to remain part of Israel "in any solution." Now if that doesn't send Mr. Abbas galloping back to the negotiating table, nothing will.

Herzog's desperate search of ballast for a sinking peace process seems almost lucid in comparison to a dreamboat scenario offered up by Martin Indyk, former U.S ambassador to Israel and a leading exponent of the James Baker theory of cryogenic diplomacy toward the Jewish state. Is the peace process finished? Yes and maybe not. Yes is the theme he's been flogging at the numerous conferences he convenes under the prestigious banner of the Brookings Institution. Maybe not is the message coming from a recent article in *The Financial Times*. As Indyk sees it, the moribund negotiations could be "jump-start[ed]" back to life by the simple expedient of having "Israel declare that it recognizes the Arab State of Palestine with equal rights for all its citizens and the PLO declare that it recognizes the Jewish State of Israel with equal rights for all its citizens. Both could then announce they are entering into state-to-state negotiations to define the borders between them. These dramatic steps," he avers, "could turbo-charge the negotiations by giving each side something fundamental that they both deserve—mutual recognition of their national aspirations."

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The ambassador's leap of faith in the resuscitation of peace talks based on formulae the Arabs have consistently rejected is exceeded only by his normally didactic disposition. He solemnly instructs "the parties" to commit themselves to reaching an agreement on borders no later than September "so that the State of Palestine can be seated when the General Assembly next meets, as Mr. Obama has promised."

A variation on Indyk's prescription for resetting the fractured peace process comes to us from Robert Satloff, Executive Director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. To accompanying strains of Herzog's "golden opportunity" theme, Satloff joyfully embraces the suspension of formal talks, weighed down by the settlements issue, as a cleared path for testing "the tantalizing proposition that the current Israeli and Palestinian leadership may be closer to an agreement on the core issues of contention than is commonly recognized."

Satloff suggests that the peace process can be repaired by "an intensive exercise at winning parallel deposits from each party as to what it would be willing to do on core issues, should the other meet essential conditions." The "parallel deposits," he says he hopes to win, call for the parties' response to two questions: How much of Judea and Samaria would Israel give up in exchange for Palestinian accession to its security demands, and how many of those de-



Martin Indyk

mands would the Palestinians accept if Israel were willing to negotiate a final settlement based on the pre-June 1967 armistice lines. With Fatah having already rejected Israel's security demands and Israel having foreclosed any return to the indefensible borders that triggered the 1967 war, Satloff's "parallel deposits" scheme has all the substance of a soap bubble. As he ruefully concedes, "even with best of intentions, which should not be taken for granted, "there just may not be a deal in the offing."

Way ahead of him on that, the Palestinian Authority has decided to test the efficacy of diplomatic *force majeure*, via the United Nations, in its struggle to dispossess the Jewish people of their land. Aware, however, of strong American opposition and a threatened Congressional clamp-down on further U.S. funding, Abbas & Co. have all but decided to abandon any attempt at a UN declaration of Palestinian statehood based on the pre-June 1967 armistice lines. Instead, their sights appear focused on a Security Council resolution declaring the 122 Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria to be in violation of international law.

If that puts the Obama Administration between a rock and a hard place—invoking the displeasure of the "international community" if it exercises the veto, the ire of Congress and a majority of the American people if it does not—it is apparently viewed as a win-win situation for a PA that increasingly regards the White House as an Israeli tool. In the wake of its inability to impose a permanent Judea-Samaria-Jerusalem construction freeze, the administration's effort to hammer out an agreement with Israel on "core" issues isn't cutting much ice with the PA either. The only "core" issue common to the lists submitted by the two sides is "refugees" and the gap between their respective positions is insurmountable.

While reiterating a continuing readiness to sign off on a demilitarized Palestinian state prepared to accept Israel as a Jewish state and waive the "right of return," Netanyahu was being reluctantly drawn into a domestic political web with interlocking external ramifications. Amidst ongoing concern over an Iranian nuclear clock that may or may not have been slowed by a "Stuxnet" computer worm attack on its uranium enrichment facilities, the prime minister was having all he could do to stave off a two-pronged threat to his fragile coalition emanating from a Knesset bill that would invest future responsibility for the conversion of non-Jewish IDF soldiers in the hands of a military chaplaincy independent of the Haredi-dominated Chief Rabbinate.

The bill, which passed the first of its required three "readings" with a whopping majority, is the fair-haired child of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and his predominantly Russian Israel Beitenu party. Lieberman has staked his political life and continued

presence in the Likud coalition on its passage. On the other side of the fence, Shas, Agudat Israel and United Torah Judaism, the three Haredi members of the coalition, are threatening a walkout of their own if the bill becomes law. Netanyahu is in the middle, trying to find a compromise acceptable to both sides.

The "Lieberman Factor," as it's coming to be known, has been further underscored by the foreign minister's public dismissal of any chance of a peace accord with the present Palestinian leadership, and his labeling as "beyond chutzpah" Turkey's demand for an Israeli apology and compensation for the nine Turkish cutthroats killed by IDF troops on the Mavi Marmara, the lead ship in the attempted Gaza blockade run last summer. In respect to the peace process, he said the best Israel could expect from the PA at this point is a "long-term interim agreement," with emphasis on mutual security and Israeli economic assistance. As for the Turkish dispute, which Netanyahu, in a bid to reinstitute diplomatic relations, has been trying to finesse with a letter expressing regret for the loss of life but offering no apologies, Lieberman said it was Turkey, not Israel, that needed to apologize for its collaboration with the terrorists who organized and directed the violence aboard the Mavi Marmara.

Netanyahu has thus far deflected demands by his Kadima-led Knesset opponents and their media allies for the straight-talking Lieberman's head, citing, inter alia, Labor Party Defense Minister Ehud Barak's public enthusiasm for re-dividing Jerusalem and Shas party chief Eli Yisha's demand for increased subsidization of a non-working haredi "yeshiva" population as "things we don't like" but can do little about as long as Israeli governance remains hostage to coalition politics.

The prime minister's problems do not end at Lieberman's door. Egged on by the media, his government is being put through the ringer over a "halachic edict" promulgated some nine months ago by Safed Chief Rabbi Shmuel Eliahu against selling or renting property to "non-Jews" (read "Arabs") in Safed and other towns in which the Jewish-Arab population is near the tipping point. The edict has since become the springboard for a letter to the same effect signed by 50 rabbis across the country. Fanned by the recent deportation of 1,300 of some 25,000 Sudanese and other African "refugees" who have illegally taken residence in Israel over the past four years, the rabbinical letter has precipitated an orgy of self-flagellation over the country's alleged lapse into "racism" and "apartheidism." A December editorial in *Ha'aretz* accused it of undermining "the foundations of Israel's system of government." Avi Shavit, writing in the same Hebrew daily, credited the rabbinical letter and deportations with having "turned Israel into a country that exudes an xenophobic stench."

Shas, Agudat Israel, and the United Torah Judaism threaten a walkout.

Rabbi Eliahu, at this writing, was refusing to comply with an Israeli police summons for questioning on suspicion of "incitement to racism." Moreover, his defenders were fighting back, comparing the media's assault on his democratic right to express his views, however unpalatable to some, with its unflinching support of the right of tenured Israeli academics to join and in some cases lead global boycotts, sanctions and delegitimization campaigns against their nation.

A replay of the 2008 Cast Lead operation in Gaza is the last thing Israeli is looking for, but Hamas is reportedly itching to try out the tons of lethal new weaponry it has taken delivery of over the past two years. Prime Minister Netanyahu's warning to the hands commanding those itchy fingers "not to mess with me," may keep things quiet for awhile longer, but rockets have been falling over the western Negev on an almost weekly basis and it would take only one of them landing on a hospital or in a school yard to rewind the Cast Lead clock.

If Israel were in search of additional headaches, the recent meeting in Petra between Jordanian King Abdullah II and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's envoy, Esfandiar Rahim Mashale, should fill the bill. According to Jordan's official news agency, Mashale delivered a "personal letter" to Abdullah from Ahmadinejad, suggesting "ways of developing ties between the two countries on a number of regional and international issues." Ahmadinejad invited the king to visit Iran, while Abdullah expressed keen interest in a summit meeting with the Iranian chieftain.

If these reports are true, it would indicate that Amman was "hedging its bets" on the West, most notably the United States, by seeking to add itself to the expanding list of countries in the region that would like to avoid a confrontation with Teheran. That's bad news for Jordan's closest neighbor, but as *Jerusalem Post* columnist Caroline Glick put it, nothing more accurately reflects the lengthening of that list than the alarming diminution of American influence in the region under the Obama administration.

Nor does anything more worrisomely reflect the lengths to which that administration will go to wrench a Pyrrhic Middle East victory from the jaws of a failed two-state illusion than its new effort to stage-manage yet another revival of the Syrian-Israeli "track."

This "peace process" gear shift is nothing new. It occurred in 1998 under Benjamin Netanyahu's first premiership, with Israel's agreement to a three-stage withdrawal from Syrian territory taken in the Six-Day War in return for a full normalization of relations and Israel's inclusion in a multi-national chain of observation and early warning stations in and round the Golan Heights. The deal ultimately foundered over Syrian dictator Hafez el-Assad's rejection of an Israeli presence at the Mt. Hermon station and a dispute over where the borderline between the two countries

should be drawn. It happened again under Ehud Barak's premiership in 2000, touching off a nation-wide campaign—the most successful in Israeli history—against a projected surrender of the Golan right down to the shores of the Kinneret, Damascus' non-negotiable price for a peace treaty that met none of Israel's key security requirements.

It was tried a third time in 2008 under Ehud Olmert with the same results, despite Turkish mediation. Former IDF National Security Council Chairman Major General (Res.) Giora Eiland called the forfeiture of the Golan a "reckless act" then, and "an even more reckless act now" in light of "changing circumstances, both strategic and operative." This latest foray by the Obama White House, aimed at creating both a distraction from the Israeli-Palestinian flop and a cover for the resumption of U.S. diplomatic relations with a regime still on the State Department's list of terrorist-supporters, heightens the risks for both parties. At this early juncture, the level of enthusiasm from the Netanyahu government is underwhelming.

That the administration may have found an Israeli champion in outgoing IDF Chief of General Staff Gabi Ashkenazi isn't all that surprising. He has long been favorably disposed toward an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan as a price he deems worth paying for the chance of luring Syria out of the Iranian orbit and weakening the power of Hezbollah in Lebanon. If a recent *Ha'aretz* piece by Aluf Benn is to be believed Ashkenazi will use this thesis to burnish his image as he prepares for a political career.



Far more surprising—indeed, shocking—is Obama's timing in announcing the December 30th recess appointment of Robert Ford as ambassador to Syria. Thus, the first U.S. envoy to that nation in the five years since the assassination of anti-Syrian Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, has been dispatched to Damascus without the consent of the Senate, without waiting for next month's expected ruling by the UN-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon on the assassination (which might well implicate Syria along with Hezbollah), and in the face of Syria's almost certain transfer of Scud missiles to that Iranian jihadist proxy.

This inexplicable action runs counter to the interests of America's Arab allies in the anti-Iranian axis—Egypt, Saudi Arabia and (possibly to a lesser extent) Jordan—who deplore anything which would strengthen that axis and its Syrian partner, including enhanced diplomatic recognition and even the gift of the Golan Heights.

It speaks volumes about where the administration's Middle East bandwagon is heading and they don't make for easy reading.

William Mehlman represents Americans For A Safe Israel in Israel

Israel, 2010: A European Perspective

Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff

Editors Note: Sabaditsch-Wolff was part of a delegation from Europe's Counterjihad to Israel. It included leaders of such nationalist "new right" parties as Sverigedemokraterna (Sweden), Vlaams Belang (Belgium), Die Freiheit (Germany) and the Freedom Party (Austria). During the trip, the group issued a "Jerusalem Declaration" asserting "Now that the totalitarian systems of the 20th century have been overcome, mankind currently sees itself exposed to a new, worldwide totalitarian threat: fundamentalist Islam. We see ourselves as part of the worldwide struggle by the defenders of democracy and human rights against all totalitarian systems and their accomplices."

Apart from Die Freiheit, which is a new party inspired by the example of Geert Wilders, these parties all have questionable baggage and histories, none more so than Austria's Freedom Party which was clearly anti-Semitic under Jorg Haider's leadership. Kabas and Molzer, shown below as part of the Counterjihad delegation, have nasty anti-Semitic records. The leader of the Austrian Jewish community's attempt to ensure that no Israeli politicians met with members of the party (referred to in the text below) is understandable.

This said, while it will take more than a trip to Israel to prove a change of heart, the visit is a sign of internal struggle for the soul of these parties. Clearly Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, a genuine friend of Israel, is working for change within the Freedom Party. Parties prepared to struggle against the Islamization of Europe—if they are genuine defenders of democracy and human rights—have the potential to be Israel's supporters, changing the monolithic character of anti-Israel European political culture. No politician equals Geert Wilders, who leads the Party for Freedom in Holland, in championing Israel—and genuine human rights.

Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff is a heroine in the Wilders tradition and, like him (and Jesper Langballe and Lars Hedegaard in Denmark), is currently on trial for supposedly defaming Islam, "denigrating religious teachings" to be precise. She has been conducting seminars on the nature of Islam in Austria, first under the auspices of the Association of Viennese Academics and since 2008 under contract for the Freedom Party. As she rightly says, these defamation trials mark the "death throes of free speech."

This travelogue about an unforgettable visit to Israel is based on my own observations and thoughts as well as other reports such as those by Paul Weston and Brian of London. This is due to the fact that I was busy translating for most of the three days on the road and thus had little or no time to reflect on what I heard.



L to R: H. Kabas, A. Molzer, E. Sabaditsch-Wolff

It is a sad and unfortunate fact that in Austria anti-Semitism is still a part of everyday life. More than sixty-five years have passed since the end of World War II and the Holocaust, which killed literally countless people, most of them Jews from all over Europe. It is, however, also a sad fact that despite more than questionable legal provisions imposed by the European Union, this anti-Semitism has not diminished or even disappeared, but rather has increased.

I firmly believe that one key to understanding the misnamed "Arab-Israeli conflict" and this inexcusable presence of anti-Semitism in Europe lies in a thorough understanding of the holy book of Islam, which since the 7th century has openly promoted Jew-hatred. It is also necessary to be aware of a sinister project called Eurabia, which, according to its foremost authority, Bat Ye'or, "represents a geo-political reality envisaged in 1973 through a system of informal alliances between, on the one hand, the nine countries of the European Community (EC) which, enlarged, became the European Union (EU) in 1992 and on the other hand, the Mediterranean Arab countries."

It is quite simple: if one understands Eurabia and its provisions regarding the "Palestinian" question, and combines this with rudimentary knowledge of the relevant Quranic suras, then one is but a step away from understanding basic Israeli reality. There can be nothing but utter support for the Jewish

state; nothing but utter support for Israel holding on to and defending land that is publicly and politically called the "West Bank", what Israelis call Judea and Samaria. Without Judea and Samaria there is no military defense of the State of Israel. It is as simple as standing right there on a mountain overlooking the Jordan valley to realize that giving up Judea and Samaria is tantamount to committing national suicide, especially given the Muslim chant "Khaybar, Khaybar, oh Jews, the army of Muhammad will return", referring to the expulsion of Jews by the Muslim armies from the oasis of Khaybar.

It is precisely the half-knowledge of historical facts, the ignorance of realities on the ground, and myths that have been propagated since the inception of Eurabia more than twenty-five years ago that drive the critics of Israel to demonize it. A trip to Israel, such as the one I had the honor and privilege of being a part of earlier this month, dispels the ignorance very quickly. While even a cursory glance at a map of Israel should suffice, assessing the situation first-hand delivers the final blow to those unwilling to listen and to

learn.

Our educational trip started in the country's southeast, in the city of Ashkelon, which has been the target of rocket attacks from the nearby Gaza Strip. The Western media are bending over backwards to diminish these rocket attacks. I ask the reader to imagine the following to understand the situation Israel is facing:

Vienna during the hottest times of the Cold War. The Soviet troops who have garrisoned nearby Bratislava have decided to shell Vienna with rockets on a daily basis, targeting schools and hospitals, causing terror among the civilian population in addition to killing and wounding. The Austrian government, after 100 rockets have landed in Vienna and its vicinity, decides to retaliate, while the United Nations condemns the Austrian government and calls for restraint. I am an Austrian citizen whose daughter attends school. Would I allow for the UN to call restraint while the enemy, who incessantly calls for the total and utter destruction of my country, continues to terrorize me and my family? You decide.

The mayor of Ashkelon, Benny Vaknin, invited us to City Hall, where we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and the members of the delegation.

The delegation was also invited to tour the last Israeli military post close to the border of the Gaza Strip. Contrary to liberal belief, the Gaza Strip is no longer occupied by Israeli troops. Hamas, the rulers of Gaza, thanks Israel for its withdrawal by sending rockets into the Israeli cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod.

For Europeans like us who are not used to a military presence, it was very unusual to see soldiers like this young fellow manning the IDF military base. These 22-year-olds are considered the very best of their generation. Their demeanor shows awareness of the importance of their duty to defend their country.

In essence, what these young people are doing day and night is defending us and our freedom. Instead of demonizing them, we should thank them. Perhaps one day, when we have lost this freedom, we will understand what it means to patrol in the desert, in the heat, in the dust, while we in the West rant about "evil Israel". Shame on us and our politicians!

Those of us in the European *Counterjihad* are well aware that defending Western civilization means defending the frontier of Islamic hatred, Israel. As the English writer Paul Weston said so aptly in his speech at the Gush Katif museum in central Jerusalem:

"Western Civilisation was founded on Judeo-Christianity. It was born near here, on the slopes of Mt. Sinai where Moses received The Ten Commandments, and it is defended here, in Israel, the focal

point of Islam's attack upon the West.

"When we call for freedom and democracy, then by default, we stand with Israel. When we call for truth and honesty with regard to Islam, then we stand with Israel. When we call for bravery, determination and sacrifice in our struggle against Islam then we stand with Israel. When we call for the right to free speech and the right to a peaceful existence, then we stand with Israel.

"When we call upon God to help us defeat evil, then we stand with Israel. When we call out the traitors, the appeasers, the propagandists and the anti-Western haters within Europe's political and media class, then again we stand with Israel."

Paul Weston reports:

"From just outside the Gaza Strip we headed north and found ourselves on a bullet-proof bus heading into what the unknowledgeable/Liberal/Left know as the West Bank, but what historians — Israelis and others — know as Judea and Samaria.

"The Western liberals who proclaim the area as "occupied" are known historically as the Useful Idiots. The City of Ariel, which did not exist in 1978, is now inhabited by Jews. And they inhabit it for a very good reason.

"Israel is only 70 km wide. From a mountain-top just outside Ariel, one can view with the naked eye Jordan on one side and the Mediterranean on the other. And through the valley that cuts through this mountainous region there are two roads. Just two roads.

"One road leads to Iran, via Iraq and Jordan. An armored column would come this way and this way only, so to control the hill tops around the area is a matter of geo-political importance.

"When you next get involved in an argument with a liberal/leftist about the 'occupied territories of the West Bank', it might be a good time to point out the political/war realities. Islam wants the area back, because the Israelis would be rendered defenseless if they gave it up. Hence the concerted efforts of Islam and their Western useful idiots to do just that.

"If Israel gave up the areas of Judea and Samaria, they would be wiped out within five years."

Brian of London adds,

"I toured the area known as the Shomron with a delegation of politicians from Europe. What was un-



L to R: Marc Doll and Rene Stadtkewitz of the German Die Freiheit Party.



Filip DeWinter of Vlaams Belang Party, Belgium

sual was that these people came and entered what their media calls the 'Occupied West Bank' without fear of the personal political repercussions of doing this. Just crossing an imaginary line that lies 20 minutes drive from my house carries with it a huge political implication for many of these people back home. They will now be attacked and demonized even for making the trip: and doing it in the presence of the 'settlers' is as if they sat down and had lunch with devils.

"Our first stop was the community of Elon Moreh where we were joined by Sarah. She pointed out the community center in the little town, tragically named after a family of four, all of whom were shot to death in their home by a Muslim terrorist in 2002. What a contrast: the Palestinian Authority name town squares after the terrorists who murder, the Israelis name them after the victims.

"Off the bus we stopped and listened to the story of the archeological find of Joshua's altar as told by our

guide, Sarah. This was simultaneously translated into German by Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff. There's a good version of the story she told online but one of the key points is that when excavated the only animal bones found were from kosher animals and specifically the sort described in Leviticus as being suitable for sacrifice. That would be an odd coincidence if this land had not been inhabited by Jews.

"It's hard to explain to people who don't make this journey that when they read about 'settlements' and 'Occupied West Bank', there is such a stunning amount of history that binds Jews to this land and this land to the Jews.

"Contrast that with the modern Palestinians who have even taken their false name from the Romans and graced it with a starting letter "P" that doesn't exist in Arabic! Most can't even say Palestinian: it comes out as Faleshtina!

"Another important point that was made to us and was obvious standing on those hills. This is the very thin line that separates Israel's population from death at the hands of it's enemies. From these hills one can see all the way down to Tel Aviv and the sea. Artillery on these hills regularly shelled Tel Aviv and other parts of Israel when the land was occupied by Jordan. This land is a very precarious buffer. It's been said before, you've read it before, but I want to convey to you the reality that strikes one when standing there. This is the reality that these politicians from Europe will have felt, they all 'got it'.

"The previous day I'd met up with the group in Ashkelon in the morning. That afternoon they toured the Gaza border and visited Sderot while I took a train back to Tel Aviv to hear Geert Wilders speak along with Aryeh Eldad. I'd sat with Filip Dewinter and his

colleagues from Vlaams Belang and enjoyed a particularly fine piece of fish. We talked about the benefits to Israel of immigration and how amazing Israel has been at absorbing its Jewish immigrants. From the survivors of the death camps, through the refugees who fled Arab countries after 1948 to the massive one million Russian Jews who joined the country in roughly ten years. Twenty percent population absorption in ten years is unprecedented and barely mentioned. It's nonsense to talk about anti-immigration. It's the unspoken truth that some immigrants into some countries are better than others. The right sort of immigrants can always be taken."

Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff resumes:

One of the most disputed cities in the so-called West Bank is Ariel, which is considered a settlement in the eyes of the international community, i.e. the United Nations, and by extension the Organization of the Islamic Conference. However, Ariel is definitely not a settlement, but a full-

fledged city boasting a university center with more than 12,000 students, of whom a mere 500 are Arab.

Following a tour of the university center, we were invited to meet the mayor of Ariel Ron Nachman, who is also the city's founder. Despite his severe illness, he met us in the highly contentious Ariel Center for Performing Arts, where he explained the historical background and strategic importance of the city.

While there we looked out on a massive blot on the face of Israel. It is the temporary homes that house some of the Jews evicted from their homes in Gaza. These people are still living in temporary structures: they'd been all set to begin building new homes when Obama's crazy building freeze came into force. One can only hope that their horrendous treatment by the Israeli government will get better soon with proper compensation for the beautiful homes they were dragged from by the Jewish army. For a pointless dream of a peace that never came from a fanatically religious foe that knows not how to say thank you.

The last day of our official program included visits at Yad Vashem and the Knesset, the seat of the Israeli parliament.

Unlike most dignitaries who visit Yad Vashem, our delegation lay its wreath in the Valley of the Communities, which is a massive 2.5 acre monument literally dug out of natural bedrock. Over 5000 names of communities are engraved on the stone walls in the Valley of the Communities. The names of the communities are engraved and commemorated on the walls in the Valley for future generations who will identify with the memories and find their roots.

I welcomed the short drive from Yad Vashem to the Knesset as it provided me with the opportunity to gather my thoughts and reflect on the gut-wrenching



Members of the *Counterjihad* group at the Knesset

images I saw. Knowing what I do about the content of the Quran with respect to the treatment of Jews as well as Adolf Hitler's admiration of Islam, I resolved once again never to give up and never to give in.

The security procedures at the Knesset were tight. One member of our group who was not on the list had to stay behind. We were first taken to the plenary hall, where the members of the Knesset were already in session, and were seated in the VIP section of the visitors' gallery, separated by presumably bullet-proof glass. The plenary itself was nearly empty because of the Hanukkah celebrations; still, votes were taken on road measures.

The Austrian mainstream media as well as the political Left (including official Austrian Jewry) have been unable to deal with [Heinz Christian] Strache's trip to Israel. [Strache is leader of the Freedom Party of Austria]. Ariel Muzicant, the president of the Austrian Jewish community, has gone so far as to ask the Israeli ambassador to Austria for assurances that no Israeli politician meet with Strache and his delegation. Muzicant now has a problem: Not just a politician met him, but several, and he was also received by a close confidante of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, deputy minister Ayoub Kara.

In the Knesset the delegations held discus-

sions with a prominent member of the Shas party, Rabbi Zeev, and met with Giora Fortis, the former military adviser to Israeli president Chaim Herzog, now press officer of the Knesset.

A visit to the small museum honoring Gush Katif, a former Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip, ended the 100-hour-long visit to Israel. Paul Weston and I were able to deliver our speeches, interrupted only by the arrival of Deputy Minister for Development Ayoub Kara, who gave a short speech in which he supported the new European Right.

Three weeks after my return, it is still too soon to form a definitive conclusion about this trip to Israel. The mainstream media and the Leftist liberals have been busy in condemnation, but this is almost understandable, given that the new European Right is changing the paradigm for dealing with the Middle East. I believe the trip was a success for everyone: the Israelis, who were able to explain the nature of Israel's security problems; the new European Right, who were successful in demonstrating that being on the political right does not mean being anti-Semitic; and, finally, the European *Counterjihad*, who were able to make important contacts on all sides, and who showed that they too have something to say. •

Napoleon's Letter to the Jews, 1799

(In 1799, the French armies under Napoleon were camped outside of Acre. Napoleon issued a letter offering Palestine as a homeland to the Jews under French protection. The project was stillborn because Napoleon was defeated and was forced to withdraw from the Near East.)

Israelites, unique nation, whom, in thousands of years, lust of conquest and tyranny have been able to deprive of their ancestral lands, but not of name and national existence!

Attentive and impartial observers of the destinies of nations, even though not endowed with the gifts of seers like Isaiah and Joel, have long since also felt what these, with beautiful and uplifting faith, have foretold when they saw the approaching destruction of their kingdom and fatherland: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35,10)"

Arise then, with gladness, ye exiled! A war unexampled in the annals of history, waged in self-defense by a nation whose hereditary lands were regarded by its enemies as plunder to be divided, arbitrarily and at their convenience, by a stroke of the pen of Cabinets, avenges its own shame and the shame of the remotest nations, long forgotten under the yoke of



slavery, and also, the almost two-thousand-year-old ignominy put upon you. And while time and circumstances would seem to be least favourable to a re-statement of your claims or even to their expression, and indeed to be compelling their complete abandonment, it offers to you at this very time, and contrary to all expectations, Israel's patrimony!

Rightful heirs of Palestine! The great nation which does not trade in men and countries as did those which sold your ancestors unto all people (Joel,4,6) here-with calls on you not indeed to conquer your patrimony; nay, only to take over that which has been conquered and, with that nation's warranty and support, to remain master of it to maintain it against all comers.

Arise! Show that the former overwhelming might of your oppressors has but repressed the courage of the descendants of those heroes whose alliance of brothers would have done honor even to Sparta and Rome (Maccabees 12, 15) but that the two thousand years of treatment as slaves have not succeeded in stifling it.

Hasten! Now is the moment, which may not return for thousands of years, to claim the restoration of civic rights among the population of the universe which had been shamefully withheld from you for thousands of years, your political existence as a nation among the nations, and the unlimited natural right to worship Jehovah in accordance with your faith, publicly and most probably forever (Joel 4,20). •

A Shining Moment For American Jews

Ruth King

This year marks the centennial of the birth of America's 40th President, Ronald Reagan. There will be torrents of essays, quotes, and columns celebrating the wit, style and superb leadership of the President who restored American pride. For American Jews, his election signaled a major, if only temporary, realignment of political affiliation as a record number of Jewish Americans set aside liberal proclivities to vote for a conservative Republican candidate.

At an earlier time Jewish affinity for the Democratic Party was understandable. While Israel's detractors slumbered, President Truman defied his cabinet members and advisers to recognize Israel in a press release under cover of night. Eleanor Roosevelt was a staunch supporter of Israel and many prominent liberal Democrats were early advocates of Zionism and Israel's independence. Indeed, until the advent of President Carter all Democratic administrations showed support and empathy for Israel.

Supporters of Israel were wary of Republicans and conservatives with good reason. John Foster Dulles, President Eisenhower's Secretary of State, was overtly hostile to Israel. Many episodes demonstrated this, but none so clearly as his response to the 1956 Sinai War.

In October 1955, an assertive President Nasser, flush with a large arsenal of advanced arms from Czechoslovakia, was enjoying regional strategic dominance. Nasser felt confident enough to send terror raids into southern Israel. In July 1956, Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal. This provided the British and French with a motive for cooperating with Israel against Egypt. In 100 hours, Israeli forces captured the Sinai desert and routed the Egyptian army. However, intense pressure by the Eisenhower administration forced Israel to withdraw and accept UN monitors in Sinai. When Egypt demanded their withdrawal, the stage was set for the 1967 War.

Senator Barry Goldwater, the conservative Republican candidate in 1964, criticized the "Jewish Lobby" for its supposed influence on Washington's policies.

The belated response of the Nixon Administration to Israel's desperate pleas for resupply during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 alarmed and alienated supporters of Israel. To his credit, President Nixon demanded an airlift of supplies to Israel, but the Watergate scandal and his subsequent resignation left the resolution of that war to the disastrous Ford/Kissinger administration which demanded a final truce on the aggressor Sadat's terms. Furthermore, Kissinger crudely warned Israel of a "reassessment" of American-Israel relations if it did not accede.

Much is now known about Henry Kissinger's callous disregard for Jewish concerns. Ronald Reagan zeroed in on this in 1976, when he embarked on a pri-

mary challenge to Gerald Ford. In a speech entitled "To Restore America" he had this to say:

".....[W]e are told Washington is dropping the word "détente," but keeping the policy. But whatever it's called, the policy is what's at fault. What is our policy? Mr. Ford's new Ambassador to the United Nations attacks our longtime ally, Israel....Now we must ask if someone is giving away our own freedom. Dr. Kissinger is quoted as saying that he thinks of the United States as Athens and the Soviet Union as Sparta. 'The day of the U.S. is past and today is the day of the Soviet Union.' And he added, '... My job as Secretary of State is to negotiate the most acceptable second-best position available.' Well, I believe in the peace of which Mr. Ford spoke as much as any man. But peace does not come from weakness or from retreat. It comes from the restoration of American military superiority."

Reagan lost that round. Jews were not a factor, for the vast majority were not registered Republicans and unable to vote in the primaries. In any event, Jews voted enthusiastically for President Jimmy Carter. Given his Presidential and post-presidency bias against Israel, Jewish advocates for Israel would come to bitterly rue their support.

Early in his administration, long before Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem, President Carter began to speak of Israel's return to the 1967 borders. In a press conference on March 7th, 1977 he was asked if he was considering minor withdrawals. His answer: "I don't think I would use the word minor withdrawals. I think there might be minor adjustments to the 1967, pre-1967 borders." This was coupled by advocacy of a Geneva conference, whose premise, in his words was that "there has to be a homeland provided for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered for many, many years."

It is significant that, although supporters of Israel were dazzled by the hallucination of peace brought about by the Camp David Accords, they were sensitive to the pressure brought upon Israel by the Carter administration. Jews were especially worried by the overt hostility and anti-Semitism of National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and the secret meeting of Andrew Young, Carter's ambassador to the UN, with Zehdi Terzi, a representative of the PLO, in the apartment of the Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdullah Bishara in 1979.

Although Andrew Young was forced to resign, several high level Carter administration leaders began outreach to the PLO. In 1979, President Carter asked Robert Strauss to serve as his personal representative to the Middle East peace negotiations. At the administration's urging, Ambassador Robert Strauss conducted many meetings with Arabs associated with the PLO, chief among them the late and unlamented Ed-

ward Said. Also in 1979, on instructions from Washington, Carter's ambassador to Austria Martin Wolf met PLO representative Issam Sartawi.

It was obvious that the Carter administration was intent on sanitizing the PLO and air-brushing its history of terrorism, in spite of a vow Carter had made at a press conference in September of 1977: "We have pledged to the Israelis in the past, and I have confirmed the pledge, that we will not negotiate with, nor deal directly with the PLO until they adopt United Nations Resolution 242 as a basis for their involvement, which includes a recognition of the right of Israel to exist."

All this set off alarm bells and when Ronald Reagan ran for the Presidency in 1980, an unprecedented 40 percent of Jews tabled their ancillary concerns about liberal issues and voted for a conservative Republican.

Dr. Paul Kengor has noted: "As president, Reagan noted that Jews in particular had suffered cruel persecution under communism. Even the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, said Reagan, had used threats and harassment to force 'virtually every Nicaraguan Jew to flee [the] country.' Reagan would do his part for those Jews. In fact, he always kept on hand an updated list of people in prison in the Soviet Union, which he carried with him in his coat pocket. Each time Secretary of State George Shultz prepared to travel to the USSR, Reagan pulled out the list and directed, 'I want you to raise these names with the Soviets.'"

The Soviet Jewry movement was the high point of American Jewish activism. The December 6, 1987 rally for Soviet Jewry brought an estimated 250,000 people to Washington to demand an end to the enslavement of Soviet Jews.

Those were heady days for American Jews. But it was to prove only a temporary realignment with self-interest. By 1992, possibly because of James Baker's harsh anti-Israel policies, the great majority of American Jews had drifted back to the Democratic Party. Again, with the Oslo Accords, they indulged in hallucinations of peace. While the murderous PLO, supposedly a "partner" in peace, commenced the longest running reign of terror against Israel's civilians, the Clinton Administration pummeled Israel into accepting continuing negotiations on Arab terms.

Instead of denouncing this pressure, American

Jews and their putative leaders fell into lockstep in support of "peace processing" and "road maps" regardless of the occupant of the White House. Liberal cant took over as the case for Israel receded into the back burner. The era of Jewish organization power in American politics was at an end.

Now, thirty years after the January 1981 inauguration of Ronald Reagan, anti-Israel agitation and boycotts have become the norm in the academies, in the media and in entertainment. In some cases Jews actively support these tactics.

Nothing better illustrates the collapse of American Jewry than its response to the delegitimization of Israel. In a January 5 column "Funder Beware," David Eisner writes: "Unfortunately, on the ground, anti-delegitimization efforts are being undermined by some of the very organizations that the mainstream Jewish community actually finances. The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Manhattan recently invited boycotter Tony Kushner to speak at the opening night of its 'Other Israel Film Festival.' American Friends of Hebrew University bestowed their prestigious Scopus Award on boycotter Frank Gehry. The JCC of San Francisco made boycotter Stephen Sondheim a keynote speaker at their Ideas Programs. And, the executive committee of the Foundation for Jewish Culture, an organization with a proud history of support for Jewish scholarship and art—though also with a recent history of funding several highly controversial projects that many critics consider anti-Israel propaganda—recently overwhelmingly rejected a simple resolution to condemn 'academic or cultural boycott of Jews or Israel, their academics and artists, or their academic and cultural institutions.' In rejecting the above resolution, the Foundation apparently concluded that some Jewish and Israeli artists and academics' rights were not as important as others."

What happened to that glimmer of Jewish mettle? There should be at least 250,000 Jews demonstrating on the mall against the policies of a hostile President when implementing those policies can only lead Israel to national suicide.

When one contemplates the centennial of Ronald Reagan's birth, one mourns not only a great American President but the abdication of American Jewry. •

In Memoriam—Jack D. Lauber z.l.

We deeply mourn the loss of Jack D. Lauber, the long-time chairman of AFSI's Albany chapter.

A chemical and environmental engineer, Lauber was an early advocate of transforming waste to energy, serving as an advisor to Israeli academics at Ariel University and to Israel's ministry of the environment.

(Continued from page 2)

security policy which can detect potential terrorists even when they are staring you in the face.

Et Tu, Denmark?

So writes Diana West, describing the terrible turn of events in Denmark, which has spearheaded the fight to preserve free speech, and now is succumbing to what she calls “mandarins of the left and mullahs of *sharia*.”

West reprints the letter sent out by the Danish Free Press Society:

“Free speech is under attack in Denmark. Please help us preserve it.

“Those who have been following the Danish cartoon crisis and several subsequent attempts by radical Muslims to kill and bomb Danes and Danish institutions may be excused for believing that Denmark is in the forefront of the battle for free speech. And indeed it used to be that way.

“No longer. For the past year the Danish public prosecutor has been waging a lawfare offensive against outspoken critics of Islam and Muslim practices.

“On December 3, 2010, Member of Parliament Jesper Langballe was convicted of ‘hate speech’ or as the judge in the lower court of Randers put it: ‘racial discrimination’—for having called attention to honour killings in Muslim families.

“Next in line is Lars Hedegaard, President of the Danish Free Press Society and the International Free Press Society, who will stand trial in the lower court of Frederiksberg on January 24, 2011. His crime

has been to point to the great number of family rapes in areas dominated by Muslim culture. This well documented fact has brought him an indictment under the Danish penal code’s ‘racism’ clause: Article 266b.”

West notes that these beleaguered Danes have received zero support from the press or diplomatic, governmental or professional institutions in the United States, home and caretaker of the First Amendment. West believes this “appalling lack of support...is the main reason the assault on free speech continues to be successful.”

Israel Strikes Oil

Golda Meir (half) jokingly complained that Moses “took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil!” That’s no longer true as the land of milk and honey turns out to have huge reservoirs of gas—and oil—offshore. On Dec. 29 Noble Energy confirmed the Leviathan field 84 miles off Israel’s coast is a “supergiant” containing 16 trillion cubic feet of gas—enough to supply Israel’s gas needs for 100 years. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that it’s the world’s biggest deep water gas find in a decade. Leviathan is part of the Levant Basin, with an estimated 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and potentially 1.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

The Arabs are already disputing Israel’s claim; let’s hope Israel maintains its rights with more tenacity than it has shown toward sustaining its legitimate rights to the area of the Jewish National Home between the Jordan and the Mediterranean. •