



ISRAEL MATTERS!

Publication of the Israel Affairs Committee of Temple Beth Shalom
1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517-1401

50th Issue!



Issue Number 50
September 2011

Netanyahu Lobbies World Envoys Against Palestinian Statehood Bid

NY Times: Palestinian Statehood Vote is “Damaging”

The New York Times published an editorial criticizing the expected vote on Palestinian statehood at the United Nations in September, saying its “consequences could be profoundly damaging for all involved.” The paper whose editorials are considered to carry considerable weight in international affairs expressed sympathy with the Palestinians’ frustration over stalled talks with Israel but said a showdown at the UN would not help advance their cause.

Such a confrontation would only further isolate Israel and the United States – which is likely to veto a motion on Palestinian statehood at the Security Council – and may have stark consequences for the Palestinians themselves, it said. “After the initial exhilaration, Palestinians would be even more alienated, while extremists would try to exploit that disaffection,” it stated.

The paper said all sides shared the blame for the impasse that has existed ever since talks broke down in September 2010. According to the editorial, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was guilty of pandering to right-wing elements in his government and finding “excuses” to ignore dealing while the Palestinians were criticized for “giving up on diplomacy.”

It argued only direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians could revive the peace process. “To have any chance of inducing the Palestinians to drop their statehood bid the United States and its partners should put a map and a deal on the table, with a timeline for concluding negotiations and a formal UN statehood vote,” it stated. “The Security Council and the Arab League need to throw their full weight behind it.” [Jerusalem Post]

Israel is prepared to make concessions, but the Palestinians have shown no indication of a willingness on their own for compromise, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said recently to a group of 18 ambassadors to Washington from Asian, European, African and Latin American countries who don’t usually vote for Israel at the UN.



“Six prime ministers, including myself, have come out in support of a Palestinian state, and two offered far reaching concessions, but this hasn’t helped,”

Netanyahu said, in a reference to the concessions offered by Ehud Barak in 2000, and Ehud Olmert in 2008. Netanyahu’s comments came within the context of trying to get the ambassadors to convince their governments not to support the Palestinian bid for statehood recognition at the UN in September. Among the ambassadors were the envoys to the US from Albania, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Slovakia, St. Lucia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad & Tobago and Uganda.

Netanyahu told the ambassadors, brought to Israel for a week of high level meetings by The Israel Project, that the Palestinians have shown no willingness for compromise on the issue of refugees, Israel as a Jewish state, or that a future agreement would constitute an end to the conflict. Netanyahu said that efforts were still underway to come up with a formula that would enable negotiations and keep the Palestinian Authority from turning to the UN. He said that this formula could include elements that both the sides could have reservations about, but that this should not keep them from entering talks.

Israeli officials said that Jerusalem has agreed to a formula calling for negotiations based on the 1967 lines, with mutual agreed swaps, as long as the Palestinians agree that the goal of the talks will be two states: a Palestinian one and a Jewish one. So far the Palestinians have balked at that type of language.

Among the ambassadors were some from countries “in the automatic block that votes against Israel” at the UN. “This is a group not known for voting for Israel, so the goal is to engage them, and any change in their voting pattern would be a plus.” [JTA]

Israel-Jordan Ties Threatened

The Jerusalem Post has reported anti-normalization elements in Jordan are threatening economic and diplomatic ties with Israel. The Arab Spring, the stalemate in peace negotiations with the Palestinians, and Palestinian efforts to gain statehood recognition in the United Nations in September are behind the upswing, it reported.

Examples of the anti-Israel sentiment in the Hashemite Kingdom in recent months include the decision of a Jordanian insurance company to stop covering the cars of Israeli Embassy personnel in Amman. The company said it was forced to stop working with the embassy because of the increasing pressure from anti-normalization factions.

The paper's sources also noted the Jordanian press has stepped up anti-Israel rhetoric, citing an article on the Amman news service Web site that referred to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as a criminal, and described Israel as a "snake" and Zionists as "despicable obnoxious group of people," sources told the Post.

There has also been a marked decrease in agricultural products exported to Jordan since the beginning of the year due to pressure on Jordanian importers, the sources said. Even Jordanians who sell olives to Israel have been subjected to harassment and told the olives sent to Israel are being used to make olive oil for export to Europe for further profit, the paper said. [JPost]

Members of US Congress to Visit Israel During Summer

A fifth of the US House of Representatives will be taking their summer vacations in Israel this year.

According to the Daily Mail, the American Israel Education Foundation is paying to take approximately eighty congressmen to Israel during the summer recess period. The group is the supporting organization to the American Israel Public Affair Committee (AIPAC) that describes itself as "America's leading pro-Israel lobby."



According to the Jerusalem Post, 55 of the holidaymakers will be Republicans while 26 will be Democrats. Many will be visiting Israel for the first time. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (photo) will head the Democratic delegation—his 12th trip to Israel - while House Majority Leader Eric Cantor will lead a Republican group. This year Israel is believed to be the most popular foreign holiday destination for members of the house.

Hoyer recently broke with U.S. policy and said Israel should be allowed to build in disputed East Jerusalem. Just two days after the State Department blasted Israel's recent authorization of additional housing construction in the eastern section of the holy city, Hoyer said in an interview that he sees the area as a Jewish neighborhood that must be expanded to accommodate growth. [ANI/Politico]

USPTO and Israel Patent Office Partner on Pilot Program

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has announced a pilot project for the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with the Israel Patent Office (ILPO).

PPH will permit each office to benefit from work previously done by the other office, which reduces the examination workload and improves patent quality. The expedited examination in each office will allow applicants to obtain corresponding patents faster and more efficiently in each country.

Under the PPH pilot program, an Office of Second Filing (OSF) may utilize the search and examination results of a national application filed in the Office of First Filing (OFF) in a corresponding application filed under the Paris Convention in the OSF.

The Head of the Israel Patent Office, Mr. Asa Kling, stated "An accelerated examination in the framework of the PPH will promote effective prosecution and improvement of patent quality, while reducing workload on examiners in both offices as well as on the applicants who may enjoy this new service."

"This new agreement now adds the first Patent Office in the Middle East Region," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, David Kappos. "The cooperation between our offices will greatly benefit our stakeholders by reducing delays due to duplication of work between our offices and improving patent quality."

Under the Patent Prosecution Highway, an applicant receiving a ruling from the Israel Patent Office that at least one claim in an application is patentable may request that the USPTO fast track the examination of corresponding claims in corresponding applications. Similarly, if the USPTO determines that at least one claim is patentable, the applicant may request accelerated processing of corresponding applications filed at the Israel Patent Office.

The purpose of this trial program is to gauge the interest of applicants and determine if the program improves quality and efficiency and reduces the workload at the USPTO as well as the Israel Patent Office.

The trial period started on July 1, 2011, and is set to expire on June 30, 2012, but may be extended for up to one year or terminated earlier depending on volume of activity and other factors. [USPTO]

What others are saying about Israel . . .

TUTU'S WAR ON ISRAEL, JEWS

By: Giulio Meotti, a journalist with Il Foglio, and the author of the book A New Shoah: The Untold Story of Israel's Victims of Terrorism. August 11, 2011

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whose role in the fight against South African apartheid in the 1980s gained him the Nobel Peace Prize and global fame, is among the world's most respected figures. Barack Obama awarded him the US highest honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Tutu has been called "an inspiration" and was compared to Albert Schweitzer and Gandhi. The Wall Street Journal labeled him "the best known priest in the world." Tutu was even asked to donate his genome to scientists to discover the African roots of mankind.

With Nelson Mandela in jail, it fell to Tutu to steer the struggle against institutionalized racial oppression in a non-violent direction. From his church in segregated Soweto, Tutu urged the imposition of economic sanctions against the white government. Since then, Tutu's face has become the symbol of tolerance and goodness. However, the Archbishop's iconic voice has also found another cause no less popular: The global campaign against Israel and the Jewish people. Tutu just promoted an appeal to the US pension fund of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association for cutting the partnership with Israeli companies.

Recently, Tutu convinced the University of Johannesburg to end its relationship with Ben-Gurion University as part of a boycott against Israeli academic institutions, resembling the dark time when German universities banned famous Jewish intellectuals such as T.W. Adorno and Albert Einstein. Archbishop Tutu also promoted the boycott of all Israeli goods by the US Food Co-Op and he became the poster leader of the Western NGOs promoting campaigns for divestment and sanctions against the Jewish State.

Last week, the Archbishop sponsored a call for an arms embargo against Israel. Next November, Tutu will open in Cape Town the third session of the anti-Israeli Russell Tribunal, a standing organization that held two tribunals against Israel last year in Barcelona and London. During this event, Tutu will seek to determine whether Israel's policies fit the international legal definition of the crime of "apartheid." Tutu has ideologically built this conceptual mousetrap of "Zionist apartheid," where the Jewish question is the cheese and the victim. The Archbishop perfectly knows that charging Israel with apartheid is simply a blood libel, as Arabs and Jews live and work together in Israel, while sharing all public facilities (hospitals, schools, malls, buses, cinemas, parks).

Making apartheid accusations against a state that undertook major operations to save black Jews in Africa is ludicrous. But the Christian Archbishop is not interested in preaching the truth, but rather, in promoting the liquidation of Israel, creating a new, horrible Jewish Diaspora. On university campuses worldwide, in the mainstream media and in large parts of Western public opinion, Tutu's analogy is a very popular cause and "Zionist apartheid" is already the new codeword for racist evil.

Thanks to Tutu, the World Conference against Racism, held by the United Nations in Durban in 2001, was transformed into a racist conference against Israel. In the same city where President Mbeki held his festival of victory against apartheid, another death sentence for the Jews was being pronounced under Tutu's umbrella and that of the United Nations.

Tutu has demonized the "Jewish lobby" as too "powerful" and "scary," resorting to a vile myth rooted in anti-Jewish stereotype, whereby the Jews control Washington. According to Tutu's horrific and false accusation against the Jewish people, Israel is a sadistically colonialist entity, a blind persecutor of children, and a mad builder of apartheid walls.

Tutu proclaimed, many years before Iran's Ahmadinejad, that the West had muted criticism of Israel because of guilt over the Holocaust. He has accused Israel of acting in an "un-Christian" way. He has complained of "the Jewish monopoly of the Holocaust" and has demanded that its victims must "forgive the Nazis for the Holocaust," while refusing to forgive the "Jewish people" for "persecuting others."

Tutu has asserted that Zionism has "very many parallels with racism." He has compared Israel to Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union, saying that they too were once "very powerful" but they "bit the dust," as will "unjust" Israel. Tutu has claimed that the Christian God sides with the Palestinians, whom he compares to the Israelites under slavery in Egypt. Tutu is also responsible for the "apartheid wall" mythology that has been one of the most repugnant propagandistic manipulations that Israel has ever suffered, because it is based on ignoring of the cause-effect nexus.

All decent people know that Israel is not Soweto. But Tutu resembles those Christian bishops who fomented the Final Solution by the idea that the wandering Jew is the symbol of God's rejection of the Jewish people. [Ynetnews]