



ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel
A service of the Bet El Twinning Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

Commentary...

Dear Readers:

Israel and the Jewish People lost a friend late last week with the death in Iraq of Michael Kelly of The Washington Post. We dedicate this issue in his memory and reprint this article of his which was included in our Issue number 377, May 10, 2002. May we hear only good news and may the brave coalition forces complete the removal of the vile Saddam Hussain regime. - Ed.

Israel's Phony 'Partner' By Michael Kelly

On June 6, 1967, the second day of the Six Day War, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban laid before the United Nations Security Council Israel's case for preemptively striking in a war sought and forced by the Arab nations. As the historian Michael Oren describes in his first-rate new account of the conflict, "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East," Eban looked at each ambassador before him and said: "Look around this table and imagine a foreign power forcibly closing New York or Montreal, Boston or Marseille, Toulon or Copenhagen, Rio or Tokyo or Bombay Harbor. How would your government react? What would you do? How long would you wait?"

This remains Israel's essential cry, and it comes up again-pressingly-in the matter on the table this week, whether or not Israel must consider Yasser Arafat to be, in that quaint and archaic phrase, "a partner for peace." Officially, at least, the United States still believes this; and so, before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived in Washington, various senior Bush administration officials were taking to the newspapers and the Sunday public affairs talk shows to pressure Sharon to, as Secretary of State Colin Powell delicately put it, "recognize who the Palestinian people look to as their leader," no matter "how disappointed we've been with him over time."

Yes, we have been a little disappointed, haven't we? You give a fellow a perfectly good peace process, not to mention the Nobel Peace Prize; award him much of the land he demands and a \$90 million monthly budget; let him build an armed force on Israeli territory; and, finally (as America's former top negotiator, Dennis Ross, recently revealed in a remarkable Fox News interview), get both the president of the United States and the prime minister of Israel to promise him all of Gaza and nearly all of the West Bank as an independent and joined Palestinian state, with a right of Palestinian return to that state, plus a multibillion-dollar reparations fund-and what does he do? He goes to war against you. Yes, a disappointment to us all.

But Sharon and other Israelis have perhaps a closer relationship to this disappointment than does, say, Colin Powell. Our secretary of state can afford to pretend, as our media pretend, that it is still possible to believe the man in the keffiyeh remains our own little peace partner even though, noted the ever-mild Powell, "we all may disagree with what Mr. Arafat had done over time."

Indeed. We may, for instance, disagree with the murder of six people and the wounding of 30 others on Jan. 17 at an Israeli girl's bat mitzvah in the town of Hadera. That is one of the many acts of terrorism directly linked to Arafat's control in documents found by Israeli forces in Palestinian Authority offices. These documents were organized in a 103-page report released by the Israeli government this week to support Sharon's position that Israel cannot proceed with partner Arafat.

The New York Times buried its coverage of the report on A10 and sniffed that the evidence did "not appear to show definitively that the Palestinian leader ordered terror attacks." The Post gave it front-page play but was even more dismissive, treating the Israeli evidence with open disdain. The first "objective" characterization of the material, third paragraph, does not address the documentary evidence at all but in a contrary slant notes that the report contains "a great many assertions and allegations for which no documentary proof is offered." In paragraph 12, after three paragraphs of Palestinian officials and lawyers dismissing the evidence as propaganda, The Post's reporter offers the

first and only judgment supporting the Israeli side: "Nevertheless, some of the material in the report appears potentially damaging to the Palestinians, and could hurt their standing in international public opinion."

In media-world, this sort of thing is called balanced reporting. But Sharon and all Israelis live on a more real planet, and in that place, no one has the slightest doubt that the evidence proves

that Arafat is architect and field marshal of the terrorist war against Israel.

Imagine that the government of the United States believed, on evidence, that a certain Islamic leader was responsible for directing a campaign of murder against Americans. To ask Abba Eban's question, what would we do?

Actually, the answer doesn't require much imagination, does it? We would mount an army against that leader and all his followers, and we would bomb them and shoot them and chase them and arrest them and ship them to Guantanamo Bay.

If we had the leader in question trapped in a room, we would not let him out and set him up again as a partner for peace. (Washington Post May 8)

A Map to National Disaster By Uzi Landau

If the Quartet's road map is accepted, Yasser Arafat will win the greatest victory of his life. Despite the blatant violation of all his commitments in the Oslo agreements and his responsibility for the murder of more than 1,000 Israelis - nearly 800 of them during the last two years of terror - he has not been punished. On the contrary, he is holding on to the far-reaching concessions granted him at Oslo and in addition will get what even Yossi Beilin and Shimon Peres refused to give him: the establishment of a state, "independent, viable, sovereign with maximum territorial contiguity," in principle, and without negotiation. That state is the main goal of the map, resulting from a childish belief on the part of the Quartet that the mere creation of the state will guarantee peace.

At the same time there's no mention in the map of any of the conditions noted by the government as essential for our existential security: demilitarization; our complete control of the air space; a ban on the authority to sign international agreements, for example.

As far as we are concerned, there are two inviolate conditions: public recognition of Israel's right to exist, including an end to the incitement educating toward our destruction in the Palestinian school system and inculcating peace as a value from an early age, and Palestinian relinquishment of their demand for the refugees to return to Israel.

These demands, without which there is no chance for peace, do not appear as a condition. Moreover, the Saudi Arabian initiative, which the map says has "ongoing importance," speaks of solving the refugee problem through UN Resolution 194, which includes the "right of return," as its centerpiece.

Borders: Those who believed Israel would be able to maintain control over areas of decisive strategic importance for our defense, find the map speaks about "ending the occupation that began in 1967," in other words, a return to what Abba Eban called "the Auschwitz borders."

Internationalization of the conflict: In the first year of the previous, unity government, Israel was careful not to use all that was necessary to defeat the terrorist organizations in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, it did not topple the Palestinian Authority and did not expel Arafat. The price: hundreds of killed, thousands of wounded, and a rapid deterioration to a deep and unprecedented economic depression that we are now desperately trying to end. We did so to prevent the internationalization of the conflict by the entry of foreign observers and international conferences, that would in effect, take out of our hands the sovereignty over management of the conflict and harm our ability to defend ourselves effectively.

That's exactly what the road map does. Internationalization under Quartet orchestration: It convenes two international conferences meant to establish the Palestinian state and lead to a permanent agreement, accompany the process, establish a supervisory mechanism for the implementation, judge the

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disputes between the PA and Israel, set a "realistic timetable" for progress and become involved in the negotiations "when necessary."

Jerusalem: The road map gives the Palestinians a political status equal to ours and determines that the decisions in the negotiations over the city's status will be with regard to "the political and religious interest of both sides." In other words, the division of Jerusalem. To remove any doubt about the Quartet's intentions, the road map emphasizes, "the government of Israel will reopen Palestinian institutions closed in East Jerusalem." And of course that includes the notorious Orient House.

A prize for terror: Without any condition for an end to terror first, Israel is ordered to immediately dismantle all the outposts and freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth - another bonus the Palestinians didn't even get at Oslo.

The road map is a huge prize for terror. In its wake the Palestinians will not only achieve their strategic goals, but will reach a clear conclusion: terror pays. They will get all the concessions we shower on them, organize themselves with money they get from the world and us, rebuild their terror units and attack us at the moment convenient for them. Our experience from the Oslo agreement teaches us that for us, the map bodes a future in which terror is much, much worse.

It's possible to understand why the European members of the Quartet initiated the road map. They are the ones who cynically attack President Bush, who is fighting the free world's war against Saddam Hussein; and during the years, with the same cynicism, they turned a blind eye to terrible Palestinian terror and held us responsible for it. They support the Palestinians and Arafat, Saddam's ally, and demand we concede unceasingly to terror.

Will the Americans accept the European positions? Is it possible the U.S. - which regards terror as the greatest danger to Western civilization, and is led by Bush, who declared war on terror without concessions of negotiations until it is totally eradicated like in Afghanistan and Iraq - will adopt a map saturated with far-reaching concessions that will only encourage terror?

The road map does not express the "Bush vision" as expressed last June. It is not a recipe for peace, but for national disaster. Accepting it will lead to terror and war under far more difficult conditions that we've ever known. If Israel wants to live, it must make as clear as possible and as early as possible that without basic preconditions, the map is totally unacceptable. (Ha'aretz Apr 8)

The writer is the minister responsible for the secret services and strategic relations with the U.S.

Road Map, Road Kill By Jonathan S. Tobin

Israel might pay a heavy price for the Iraq war, but there's a chance it won't

The signs of an impending sellout are all too obvious. Statements coming out of Washington confirm the fears of many that the nightmare scenario envisioned by many friends of Israel in this country is about to become reality.

It goes something like this:

After American forces finish off Saddam Hussein's regime and begin their attempt to transform Iraq into the first moderate Arab democracy, the State Department will swing into action to revive the "peace process" between Israel and the Palestinians.

The American need to soothe the wounded pride of the Arab world and repair damage to our relations with Europe and the United Nations will lead to a revived focus on the Middle East "peace process," a phrase that can be loosely translated as the system by which the Jews are made to make concessions that endanger them in exchange for further Arab threats to Israel's existence.

The so-called "road map" put forward by the Diplomatic Quartet of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia will then be presented to both the Palestinian Authority and to Israel.

Grading on a curve

This scheme makes tangible demands for Israel to make concessions on its security, such as loosening the Israel Defense Force's grip on the territories and granting the terror-infested P.A. more power and control. Israel will freeze all building of any kind in Jewish communities there, setting the stage for further withdrawals.

The Palestinians will then be asked to increase their rather intangible efforts to halt terrorism and to make progress toward "reform" of their kleptocracy. This will lead to the setting of a date for the declaration of a Palestinian state with full sovereignty.

In the nightmare, the United States will lean heavily on Israel to pull back its forces and prepare to completely surrender strategic lands where hundreds of thousands of Jews live. Diplomatic strong-arm tactics to make the Israelis see that resistance is futile will follow. At the same time, in the same way that the Oslo accords were enforced before they went up in a cloud of Palestinian explosions, the monitoring of Palestinian "progress" will be a lot more lenient.

Grading the Palestinians on a curve that would be the envy of any failing high

school student, the same intelligence assets that will hold the Israelis up to scorn for every carport constructed in Efrat, wholesale Palestinian violations of the peace will be ignored.

Despite Yasser Arafat's continuing control of the terror and crime syndicate that we laughingly call the representative body of the Palestinian people, the ascendancy of Mahmoud Abbas - aka "Abu Mazen the Holocaust denier" - to the position of P.A. prime minister will enable the United States to pretend that democracy, peace and goodness reigns in Ramallah.

The next step will be to force Israel to accept a virtual rerun of the same failed peace proposal that Ehud Barak offered to Arafat in July of 2000: half of Jerusalem, and all of Judea and Samaria in exchange for peace. If the Israeli government refuses, then the United States will employ all of its post-Iraq war victory prestige to force it to its knees. With the willing assistance of left-wing American Jews, Ariel Sharon, who won the last two Israeli elections in landslides, will be forced out in favor of someone who will do Washington's bidding.

After that, a truncated Israel will be forced to cope with further Palestinian incursions and terror, not to mention a possible intifada from Arabs in the Galilee. In response to Israeli complaints that the road map has led to disaster, America will tell the Israelis to stop whining and make more concessions ...

Are you frightened yet?

The good news is that none of this has happened yet. The bad news is that given the pressure being exerted on this country by its British ally, it just might.

President Bush's seminal June 24 speech, which set forth a vision of peace based on the transformation of the P.A. and the ouster of Yasser Arafat, seems to be forgotten. Talk from British Prime Minister Tony Blair as well as Secretary of State Colin Powell and his coterie of appeasement-minded diplomats make the nightmare all too real.

Not everyone in D.C. is an idiot

But is postwar catastrophe for Israel certain? The answer, despite the prophets of doom, is no.

Why not? First, don't assume that everybody in the administration is an idiot. Many at the National Security Council and the Department of Defense have been paying attention to the ties that have been clearly demonstrated between the Palestinians and Iraq. Syria's intervention in the war on behalf of the Iraqis and intention to use Hezbollah to destabilize any peace effort elsewhere is also undermining the "peace processors."

This administration is committed to changing the Arab world, not just appeasing it as its predecessors of both parties did. Blair's hopes notwithstanding, Palestinian treachery and terror will win them no friends even in the postwar push for peace.

So far, President Bush has been a man of his word. While he is on record in favor of a Palestinian state, he is also committed to a vision of democracy and real peace. He may actually insist that principles of his June 24 speech be upheld, which will torpedo a process based on Palestinian promises.

Second, don't underestimate the stupidity of the Palestinians. They could have had everything they could have asked for on a silver platter three years ago and rejected it because they wanted even more - all of Israel. Despite the noises about Abu Mazen's "moderation," he and the other killers in Ramallah haven't changed their stripes. It is more likely that they will embarrass any administration that emulates the efforts of Bill Clinton to accommodate them than it is likely that they will go along.

Third, don't underestimate the will of the Israelis. To the dismay of the Jewish right, Sharon has rightly decided to avoid open confrontations with Washington over theoretical concessions. That astuteness will stand him in good stead in the delicate days ahead.

Saying "no" to suicidal concessions without setting off a war of words with Washington is a delicate art but the "bulldozer" may have mastered it. He can afford to keep his powder dry and wait for the Palestinians to mess up another opportunity.

Finally, don't underestimate the support for Israel among the American people. Bush got a taste of that last spring. He and his political guru Karl Rove haven't forgotten the full court press of Christian Evangelicals to lay off Israel at the height of Arafat's terror war. Nor will he willingly antagonize them or an energized American Jewish community that is more open to supporting him in 2004.

Victory in Iraq may bring peril for Israel. But those who assume the worst aren't necessarily right. Though it looks like the Quartet juggernaut may turn the Israelis into road kill, a lot can happen to derail that collision before it happens. (Philadelphia Jewish Exponent Apr 2)

Growing up Israeli By Barbara Sofer

Toward the end of the first Gulf War our daughter Hanni turned seven. We had to limit the guests at her birthday party to the number that could fit in our sealed room. Each little girl in hair bows and party dress came bearing two boxes: one her brightly-decorated gift, the other her elementary school-sized gas mask.

The first-graders played games and sang, passed around a surprise ball, and ate chocolate birthday cake with pink flowers. Those small Israelis, who had only recently mastered reading, were learning the most fundamental Israeli lessons of growing up: You have to go on with the living and the celebrations, despite the threats and terror and wars.

I thought of that birthday party on that Thursday in February when rumors, which turned out to be false, were particularly rife that the new Gulf war would begin on that Shabbat. Hanni, now 19, and I met in the evening on Tel Aviv's Rehov Dizengoff.

Of particular interest to us was the new Castro megastore, a three-story clothing emporium which had opened despite the recession. This is one of those young peoples' venues with loud music and bright lights. The Castro version added the enticing scents of shampoo, peach soap and brewing coffee in a cafe called Fidel. The customers were nearly all teens and young adults, trying on clothes and having haircuts. The equally young salespeople were wearing the clothing store's signature black and red colors. Lines formed outside the changing rooms.

Amid the music and bustle, I suddenly felt a rush of pride.

These young people have been the main targets of the terrorism of the past two-and-a-half years. Two evenings before, the IDF chief of staff had predicted a war within two weeks.

Yet there we were, in Tel Aviv, the most likely target if Israel was hit. Experts were also predicting increased action in the north. Blink, and nearly everyone in the funky store would be wearing green or khaki, not faux military fashions, but IDF originals - if there was a call-up. Was there a kid in the store who did not personally know someone injured in the military or a terror attack? Yet despite the dangers, here they were, out on the street, examining the newest versions of prewashed denim, trying more than buying, and singing along with the music. Not a kova tembel - the old-fashioned Israeli farmer's cap - in sight, yet the young Israelis remain the same spunky crew that has come through crises before.

So, too, we ask them to take the latest state of preparedness in their prodigious stride. We shrug off the "unlikely" threat of nerve gas and smallpox.

One remarkable TV commercial shows two Saddam-like figures with a missile on a donkey traveling in the desert. A commercial! Imagine any other country reacting to nonconventional warfare threats with such equanimity.

True, the minister of defense says the chance of attack is small. No big deal. Yet the threat is not quite so trivial that we can put away our gas masks. Despite the opposition leaders' recent complaint that the Israeli army has wasted our tax money, our General Staff must have thought the threat serious enough to send us scrambling into the top closet for those black plastic accessories of Israeli life.

They can't relish sending out all those notices and refurbishing all those filters.

Hanni, now doing national service, spent an evening screwing together filters and fitting gas masks for the homeless kids she works with in a children's home in Tel Aviv. She phoned late at night, partly out of nostalgia, partly for practical advice.

How exactly did she and her siblings keep busy when we went into the sealed room? At 19, she's part of the adult staff, sleeping over at the home to help the children in the shelter if Tel Aviv is hit.

Every little girl at her party, like most of the kids who were in first grade during the first Gulf War, is now volunteering for the national good, either in the military or taking care of the country's most needy children, sick and elderly. That, too, is part of what growing up Israeli means.

For all our hopes, we have failed to provide a safe haven in the Jewish state, a place where external threats are no longer relevant. Yet neither the threat from outside nor the considerable troubles at home seem to have made cynics of them.

Rebbitzin Esther Jungreis, who recently visited Jerusalem's recovering terror survivors, sometimes tells a story from her own household. Once, while lighting candles, she asked her three-year-old son to pray for a sick woman, the mother of a friend of his. The little boy's eyes welled up with tears at the sad story. A houseguest asked whether a small child should be burdened with such weighty contemplation.

"All children cry," said Jungreis. "Some cry for candy and say 'Give me more,' while others learn to cry because they feel the pain of those in need."

Israeli kids have not become numb to the pain of others. Just the opposite. Theirs is a unique living experience. No matter where they travel and how easily they fit into a global village, their Israeliness will always be an essential part of them.

Do not mistake their resilience for apathy, their devotion to electronics for

frivolity, their interest in chic superstores for giddiness. Growing up Israeli remains a bittersweet challenge.

Yet nothing bolsters my confidence in the future more than an evening spent in the company of our youth.

May the events of today provide them with a safer tomorrow.
(Jerusalem Post Apr 7)

The Voice of Right-Wing American Jewry By Shlomo Shamir *Heads of Jewish organizations in the U.S. can't understand why Morton Klein is becoming so popular.*

At a Jewish event in Detroit last Sunday Morton Klein received an enthusiastic welcome of the kind reserved for an American politician who has wound up a primary with an impressive victory.

"It's amazing," Klein told his audience, "that in both the American administration and the Israeli government there are those who relate to Holocaust denier Abu Mazen as a serious negotiation partner."

Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), is not exactly the image of a speaker who can enthuse the masses. He has a nasal voice, the result of a congenital defect, and he has difficulty finishing a long sentence without pausing for a deep breath. But the crowd in Detroit loved what he said about the "road map."

"It is a worse initiative than the first Oslo accord," he declared. "In Oslo, the Palestinians were not guaranteed a Palestinian state and Israel was not ordered to stop building settlements."

A local journalist noted this week that the enthusiasm of the audience reached a climax when Klein ridiculed the Jewish leaders who are afraid to openly express their opinions against the road map and publicly denounce Abu Mazen.

"The heads of the organizations are afraid to speak out against Abu Mazen because they do not want to annoy President [George W.] Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon," said Klein. "I am very disappointed with Sharon, who expressed willingness to negotiate with Abu Mazen. Jewish leaders were also afraid to shake off the first Oslo accord because they were afraid to annoy president [Bill] Clinton and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin."

The warm welcomes that Klein is receiving at his appearances before the Jewish public in the United States stand in direct contrast to the reactions he elicits from the Jewish establishment. A few leaders and heads of Jewish organizations blatantly shy away from Klein and are openly derisive of his statements. When Klein gets up to speak at sessions of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, those present do not hide their contempt for the man and his views.

At a meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) last week, Klein suggested 10 amendments to the organization's declaration of principles. Nine of the amendments were rejected outright and one was discussed briefly. In a conversation with Klein he said that even the White House is avoiding him thanks to his statements denouncing Bush's policies toward the Middle East. Klein was not invited to a Hanukkah event at the White House, to which other heads of Jewish organizations were invited. He says White House aides explicitly told him, "We won't be nice to you if you are not nice to us."

The list of things that Klein has done that irk the Jewish establishment includes his appearance at a recent demonstration in Times Square in support of the war in Iraq. Klein is the first president of a Jewish organization that has so far publicly expressed support for the war. What angered major Jewish figures in New York was that the demonstration was organized by the coalition of the Christian right.

"I received angry phone calls from Jewish leaders, denouncing me for participating in the demonstration," Klein recalled Sunday. "They claimed that the participation of Jews in the demonstration would provide ammunition for the anti-Semites who claim that the Jews and Israel pushed America into the war," Klein chuckled. "Nonsense. And before the war did the anti-Semites not accuse us of any trouble? My father lost his whole family in the Holocaust, including eight brothers and sisters, and I vowed I would never be afraid of expressing my opinion in public."

Jewish leaders are visibly uncomfortable when asked to talk about Klein and respond to his statements. "Klein has no support among the Jewish leadership in America," declared one senior Jewish official in New York Sunday. "He is alone and evokes alienation." Even so, the official admitted that Klein "arouses sympathy and even enthusiasm during his public appearances because he gives expression to the right-wing public in the community. Without him they would have no voice."

Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League is perhaps Klein's sharpest critic in the Jewish establishment. A few years ago Foxman

coined a definition of Klein that Jewish officials love to repeat. In response to Klein's negative remarks against the league Foxman called him the "attack dog of the Jewish thought police."

Foxman says the worst thing about Klein's behavior is that he lashes out against people and organizations that express opinions opposing his. Foxman also feels that it is the "height of arrogance [for Klein] to sit in Philadelphia and tell Sharon, 'Don't speak to Abu Mazen.' Is that the new Zionism that Klein is preaching?"

Klein himself is unfazed by those who ridicule him. "Their activities and statements are motivated by prestige," he says. "They are interested in invitations to the White House while my activities are anchored in my care for Israel and Jews."

Klein celebrated his sweet revenge on the Jewish establishment when he recently won the most coveted recognition in the eyes of Jewish leaders and heads of Jewish organizations - his picture and an editorial about him in *The New York Times*. "Mortimer Zuckerman just finished serving two years as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, but it was Morton Klein who got an article about him in *The New York Times*," lamented the head of one large American Jewish organization.

Klein noted Sunday that none of his colleagues in the conference bothered to phone and congratulate him on the article. "Only one senior member of the conference phoned and asked me to tell him how I managed to get into that prestigious publication," he said. What surprised Jewish officials most was that this liberal newspaper portrayed the right-wing symbol of the Jewish community in a favorable light.

One Jewish leader suggested that perhaps the motive for the positive article about Klein was that the paper, which opposes the war in Iraq, wanted to present a Jewish official who supports the war and is viewed as a controversial and embarrassing figure and to let the readers draw the conclusion that Jewish support for the war is also not so broad.

The continuing polemic surrounding Klein and his activities overshadows his fascinating life story. He was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany in the early 1950s and immigrated to the U.S. with his family, settling in Florida. As the son of a rabbi and Torah scribe, Klein delved into Judaic studies as well as secular studies. He particularly excelled in mathematics and chemistry and was heralded as a promising young scientist destined for greatness. For 20 years he worked as a close associate of Linus Pauling, who twice won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Klein also served as a senior economist in the administrations of presidents Nixon and Ford.

In the 1980s, Klein published a series of innovative studies linking nutrition to heart disease, winning him national recognition. Along with his colleagues at Los Angeles University, Klein conducted research that scientifically proved for the first time that vitamin C reduces the risk of heart attack by 40 percent. At the time *Discovery* magazine called Klein's research "one of the 50 most important studies published in the U.S. in 1992."

Klein says he began his public activities in the 1980s in response to the hostile attitude of the media toward Israel. He began to follow articles published about Israel and responded to them in articles in the Jewish press, attracting the attention of some of the leaders of the ZOA, who invited him to run for president of the organization. He was elected to this post nine years ago and to this day some people claim his takeover of the organization was not completely above board.

The ZOA was founded in 1897 and Klein likes to present the organization as "the oldest pro-Israel organization in America." Until the 1940s, the ZOA was considered one of the most influential organizations in the community. It gained acclaim thanks to the people who stood at its helm, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, Stephen Wise and Abba Hillel Silver. There is no disputing that Klein, who was elected president of the organization when it had hit a low point had brought the diminished ZOA back into the Jewish arena and turned it into an organization whose presence is felt in the community.

"Morton Klein owes his notoriety to Yasser Arafat," said a New York public relations expert. "Ever since the signing of the first Oslo accord Klein has been focusing on one goal - the exposure of Arafat as enemy number one of Israel and the Jewish people. He has also become a familiar figure among lawmakers on Capitol Hill, especially among republicans."

"Senators and congressmen cannot fathom how or why there are leaders and politicians in Israel who are discussing a Palestinian state," says Klein. "I know some senators who are simply in shock."

Few leaders of the Jewish establishment can belittle Klein's ability to stack up obstacles in Abu Mazen's path to the hearts (and pockets) of senior lawmakers in Washington.

"It was Klein who ruined Arafat's image in Washington and Abu Mazen can expect trouble too," said a senior Jewish official in New York. Klein disclosed that he is already planning his response to Abu Mazen's visit to the White

House - a demonstration opposite the White House with the demonstrators wearing striped concentration camp garb and yellow Stars of David. "Such a visit will not go over quietly," promised Klein. (*Ha'aretz* April 9)

Day Earns Top Marks By Ezra Levant

Alliance foreign affairs critic leads charge on terrorism

Not all of our political leaders have sided with Saddam Hussein. To be sure, Canada's pro-Saddam MPs have received a lot of attention, and for good reason. It's important to state their names again and again, to remember at election time.

Colleen Beaumier travelled to Baghdad on the eve of the war, and returned gushing about Saddam, comparing him favourably to U.S. President George W. Bush.

Carolyn Parrish told the Parliamentary press corps "damn Americans, (I) hate those bastards." Francoise Ducros, Jean Chretien's press aide, said Bush was a "moron" -- and for a full week, Chretien refused to discipline her or accept her resignation.

Energy Minister Herb Dhaliwal told the world Bush -- whose country is our largest energy customer -- "was not being a statesman."

And then there is Chretien himself, who chose the anniversary of 9/11 to blame the victims for bringing the attack on themselves. Americans, he told the CBC, were "arrogant, self-satisfying, greedy and with no limits." This February, he repeated his insults, this time in a speech in Chicago. "Not everyone around the world is prepared to take the word of the United States on faith," said Chretien, disparaging the American rationale for war. The speech could have been written by Tariq Aziz.

But nothing can top Bill Blaikie, the NDP MP who said Bush was "planning every minute of his life to kill as many Iraqi children as he can." How can the Speaker of the House of Commons continue to refer to Blaikie as an "honourable member?"

That is Canada's rogue gallery, or part of it. But other MPs deserve our praise.

Jason Kenney, the MP for Calgary Southeast, introduced a motion in 1997 to try Saddam for war crimes. For six years the Liberals delayed, avoided and made excuses. Last month, they finally allowed Kenney's motion to go to a vote, and it passed. Kudos to Kenney for sticking with it. And shame on the Liberals for delaying it. Does anyone doubt that if Chretien wasn't in damage control mode with the U.S. right now, that he would have delayed for another six years?

But the quiet hero of Canadian politics has been Stockwell Day. When Stephen Harper won the leadership of the Canadian Alliance, Day kept a low profile, demonstrating his loyalty and allowing Harper to make his mark on the party. Day used the time to become the best-briefed Parliamentarian in the House on foreign affairs. He discovered what we all now know: Canada's foreign policy is equal parts military irrelevance and moral blindness.

Can one man change that? Judge for yourself. Since becoming foreign affairs critic, Day has led the charge to ban the terrorist organizations in Canada that the Liberals were protecting for partisan political reasons. Groups such as Jemaah Islamiya (responsible for the Bali nightclub bombing), the al Aqsa Martyr's Brigade (Yasser Arafat's personal SS) and Hamas and Hezbollah (specializing in suicide bombers).

Week after week, Day pounded away in question period, until the government grudgingly joined our U.S. and U.K. allies to ban these criminal organizations. And he was the first Canadian MP to go on the record as supporting the U.S. Banning terrorist groups and their fundraisers from Canada isn't as important as sending troops to Iraq. But it is something. It is rare that an Opposition MP can accomplish anything at all in Ottawa.

Day is as deserving of our praise as the government is deserving of our calumny. (The Calgary Sun Apr 7)

Toronto Community Notice...

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