

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...

Blind Love by David Wilder

About four years ago I was invited to attend a Bar Mitzvah in Toronto, Canada. A few of our friends from Toronto arranged a number of speaking engagements for one of my colleagues and myself, and we flew to Canada for the weekend. In order to get from my host's home to the synagogue I had to walk about 3 hours in not too warm weather. However, as far as I was concerned, it was worth the walk.

Well over a decade ago Rebbetzin Gitl Rozensweig made a major contribution to Hebron's Jewish community, sponsoring the 1929-Tarpat Memorial room in the Beit Hadassah Hebron Heritage Museum. This room, commemorating the 67 Jews murdered in Hebron on that infamous Saturday 73 years ago, is a must stop for anyone visiting our holy city. Understanding the vital importance of such an historic exhibit, Rebbetzin Rozensweig generously funded this room in memory of her late husband, Rabbi Shraga Feival Rosensweig zt"l, from Kitchener, Canada. Since then, every time she visited Israel, she made it a point to spend a few hours in Hebron. We came to know other members of her family, some of whom live in Jerusalem, and who are also very attached to Hebron.

About five years ago the Rebbetzin's son-in-law, David Rosenzweig, brought in a number of Toronto Jews, who knew very little about Hebron, but following an intensive tour, became staunch supporters of a strong Jewish presence in the city of the Patriarchs. Before leaving Hebron, he told me of his son Ezra's upcoming Bar Mitzvah and invited me to attend.

Truthfully, I don't remember too much about the party, except that it was exceptionally happy, as most smachot, Jewish festive events, tend to be. However, what I do remember left a lasting impression. Ezra's father, speaking to the large group of participants during lunch, insisted on speaking about Eretz Yisrael. Only a few days before two Jews had been murdered by terrorists in Israel, and Ezra's father made it a point to speak about them, despite his family's festive occasion. Usually, at such parties, it is not customary to speak of such sorrowing events. As we say, "There is a time to laugh, and there is a time to cry." Bar Mitzvah parties are a time to be happy and laugh, not the opposite. But Ezra's father broke the rule, saying that we must remember what is happening to our brethren in Israel, never forgetting them.

This past Saturday night, Ezra, now almost 17 years old, was involved in a minor traffic accident in Toronto. He called his parents, telling them he was waiting for a tow truck, and not to worry, he'd be home soon. Ezra's father, celebrating that night his 49th birthday, decided to join his son, and left the house. After meeting, while waiting for the tow truck, the two decided to go into a nearby Pizzeria, perhaps to buy a slice, or maybe to use the phone. Just as they approached the restaurant, two skinheads walked out of it. They had caused a large commotion in the pizzeria, having attempted to stab one of the waiters. Seeing Ezra and his father standing outside, two religious Jews, they walked behind them and stabbed Ezra's father, David Rosenzweig, hy"d in the back, killing him almost instantly.

David Rosenzweig, married to the Rebbetzin's daughter Chavi, leaves six children, including a 12 year old son whose Bar Mitzvah will be next January and an eight year old. So ironic it is that David's parents were holocaust survivors, only to have their son murdered by neo-Nazis, in of all places, Toronto, Canada.

Toronto is not the kind of place one expects to read about anti-Semitic hate killings. According to the Toronto media, this was only the 15th murder in Toronto this year. There is a large Jewish community in the city, both religious and secular, as well as many synagogues and Jewish community centers. Some people, hearing of the murder, exclaimed, "Things like this don't happen in Toronto."

Unfortunately though, י"ט
they do - all around the world. Wherever there are Jews, there is someone who hates them and is willing to kill them, for no other reason, without any excuse, except that they are Jews. And it's nothing new. It's been happening for about two thousand years. Here in Israel we too are familiar with the phenomena. Here the killing is not perpetrated by crazed individuals

or fanatic groups - here we face the killing of Jews in Eretz Yisrael just because they are Jews living in Israel.

This Thursday will mark the annual anniversary of the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash, the Temple in Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago. It is written that the 2nd Temple was destroyed because of Sinat Hinam - blind hatred between Jews. Even in the year 2002 we still face hatred, from without, as with the tragic and senseless murder of a righteous man such as David Rosenzweig, as well as hatred from within. There's no need to detail the massive and unnecessary infighting between Jews, especially in Israel, or wherever they are. Perhaps, if all of us, Jews and gentiles alike, take it upon ourselves to accept our fellowman, for whatever he or she is, the blind hatred we know so well, will, in the words of Rav Kook, be transformed into blind love, and no longer will we mourn such heartrending atrocities, such as the murder of David Rosenzweig in Toronto this past Saturday night. May our blind love be a consolation to the family. (Jewish Community of Hebron Jul 15)

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow Jerusalem Post Editorial

Put to one side, for a moment, yesterday's terror attack on the No. 189 Dan bus to Emmanuel, that (as of this writing) has left seven dead, eight critically wounded, and another eight hurt, and for which the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, and the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades all compete to take credit.

No less interesting, in our view, is the indictment of Hafez Sharaiyeh, an officer in the Palestinian General Intelligence Service, for the killing of Israel Police Supt. Moshe Dayan in March. Sharaiyeh, treated by Israeli doctors after having been caught in the crossfire between the IDF and Palestinians who had barricaded themselves in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity in April, was taken into custody by the Shin Bet on suspicion of having participated in the Dayan murder, along with other Tanzim members. Now, according to reports, he has admitted the charges.

The Sharaiyeh confession should put paid to any notion that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority is anything but wholly and directly implicated in the wanton murder of Israelis. Yet there is Arafat proffering his categorical condemnation of the attack and widely being believed.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU, insists that Arafat is the legitimately elected leader of the Palestinians and must be negotiated with. Ditto Russia's Ivan Ivanov, and the UN's Kofi Annan, the other partners (with the US) in the so-called "Quartet" talk shop on Mideast peace that met yesterday in New York to endorse Arafat's so-called 100-day reform program.

Still, one can hardly blame them for holding such views. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was himself about to meet with Palestinian ministers to discuss easing restrictions on Palestinians. The meeting was cancelled following the Emmanuel attack on the advice of Minister-without-Portfolio Dan Naveh, but will almost certainly be rescheduled for later this week. Apparently, this passes for a decent interval.

The problem here is simply put. Even after US President George W. Bush's historic speech of June 24, the Palestinian Authority continues to be treated, even by the US administration, as a credible actor with a potentially constructive role to play. As a result, a living, breathing PA maintains an interest in launching terror attacks against Israelis, principally to prove that the military strategy being pursued by the Sharon government is not working,

Yasher Koach and thank you to our supporters. Thank you also to Continental Press for their ongoing support.
Readers are requested to please mail contributions to: BAYT - re: Israel News, 613 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5V3
Annual Rates: Friend - \$36, Supporter - \$50, Benefactor - \$180. Dedications are welcome at \$120/week.
Call (905) 886-3810 for further info. Israel News can be viewed on the internet at www.bayt.org

that the present IDF occupation of much of Area A must be brought to an end, and that negotiations must be resumed. Indeed, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher is already making noises to this effect, and when Egypt speaks, the EU and the UN usually are not far behind.

So we are off to another round of diplomacy. Yet what the past few weeks have plainly demonstrated is that military measures have been astonishingly successful in shutting down the Palestinians' ability to wage a terror campaign. Yesterday's atrocity does not demonstrate that Israel's military efforts don't work, only that they haven't yet fully worked and must carry on as long as Palestinians continue to harbor genocidal aspirations against Jews.

Critics may point out that this may take forever, that genocidal aspirations will only grow as long as Israel refuses to capitulate to the full menu of Palestinian demands. Yet anyone who thinks that Palestinian terror attacks owe chiefly to the indignities Israel has inflicted upon them reverses cause and effect. The Oslo peace process was slowed, and ultimately shattered, when Israeli concessions were met by violence. The blockades, the closures, the checkpoints, all are reactions to terror, not its causes. Remove these, and Israelis will be drowned in their own blood.

Meanwhile, here's what we've got. Yonatan Gamliel, 16, alive this time yesterday, now dead. Keren Kashani, 20, alive this time yesterday, now dead. Ilana Siton, 35, alive this time yesterday, now dead. Galila Ades, 46, alive this time yesterday, now dead. Zilpa Kashi, 67, alive this time yesterday, now dead. Her son-in-law, Gal Shilon, 35, alive yesterday, now dead. His daughter, Tiferet Sarah, nine months, alive yesterday, now dead.

We mourn their loss. And we wonder when we'll be able to say: the Palestinian Authority, alive yesterday, now dead. (Jerusalem Post Jul 17)

The Temple Mount: Truly Ours? Jerusalem Post Editorial

Today is Tisha Be'av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It marks the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, the ancient demise of Jewish sovereignty and the dispersion of the people of Israel to the four corners of the earth.

Throughout Jewish history the date has come to be associated with a range of national disasters, from medieval expulsions and persecutions to the outbreak of World War I. Accordingly, it is a day steeped in sorrow, one tradition says is to be spent in fasting and remembrance.

For Israelis, the need for a national day of mourning has perhaps never been so self-evident. After a lull of nearly three weeks, Tuesday's horrific terror attack in Emmanuel was a lethal and painful reminder that Palestinian terror is still very much a threat, lying in wait for any opportunity to kill and maim as many innocent Israelis as possible.

The central focus of the Tisha B'Av rituals, of course, concerns the Temple Mount, where king Solomon's Temple once stood. Observant Jews pray for its rebuilding daily, and for many Israelis the Mount itself symbolizes the historic return of the Jewish people to their homeland. Indeed, the crowning moment of the Six Day War came when the crackling radio blared the words "Har Habayit beyadenu!" (The Temple Mount is in Our Hands!) across the airwaves, signifying the liberation of Judaism's holiest site.

The enthusiasm of the moment, however, was quickly diluted when defense minister Moshe Dayan handed over the keys of the Mount to the Muslim Wakf. Worse still, in the intervening years successive Israeli governments have demonstrated shameful apathy - often outright indifference - to the Wakf's actions, doing little to prevent the wanton destruction of priceless historical and archaeological artifacts.

As prominent archeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar, a leader of the Committee Against the Destruction of Temple Mount Artifacts, noted the other day, the situation on the Mount is highly precarious. In an interview with Arutz Sheva, Mazar said, "The large-scale destruction of artifacts has stopped and the trucks have stopped carting away tons of valuable debris, but the situation is still bad: There is no supervision whatsoever on the Temple Mount. We have no way of knowing what is going on underground in the large caverns, where the Wakf has been making preparations to build and make major changes."

Even more worrisome, Mazar noted, are the effects of the Wakf's unsupervised work on the structural stability of the site: "The Southern Wall is beginning to buckle because of the changes they are making and nothing is being done about it. The Sharon government has decided to ignore the matter, despite the critical importance of what is going on there."

Last year alone the Wakf was able to remove some 20,000 tons of debris uncovered during its unlawful excavations, which reportedly included artifacts dating back to the First Temple period. To date, charges have yet to be brought against anyone in the Wakf for these brazen acts of defiance.

As Mazar put it: "Their stated goal is to turn the entire Temple Mount

compound - all 144 dunams of it - into an active mosque. They are doing so, and no one is stopping it."

Sadly, the government continues to play into the Wakf's hands by acceding to its refusal to allow non-Muslims to visit the Temple Mount or pray there. Though Israel justifiably prides itself on its policy of freedom of access to the holy sites for members of all faiths, that policy - inexplicably - does not seem to apply to Jews on the Temple Mount.

Leaving aside the halachic issues involved, it is simply unfathomable that Israel's government should close off the Jewish people's holiest site and bar entry to Jews, all because of the Wakf's intolerance and bigotry. It is an affront both to the rule of law and, as Tisha B'Av reminds us, to Jewish history as well.

It is time for the sound of Jewish prayer to return to the Temple Mount. Three decades of inaction have allowed the Wakf to thumb its nose at Israeli rule, calling into question just who is in charge on the Mount.

Interior Security Minister Uzi Landau courageously chose to shut down the offices of Al-Quds University in Jerusalem last week because they were defying Israeli law and sovereignty. One can only hope the government will awaken to the plight of the Temple Mount as well, and act to restore Israel's control over it - in the fullest sense of the word. (Jerusalem Post Jul 18)

Cowards By Oliver North

JERUSALEM, Israel -- It wasn't this way the last time I was here. That was in 1986, when I was working with the Israeli government on a secret initiative that came to be called "Iran-Contra." Back then, when my counterparts picked me up at Ben Gurion Airport, the skyline of Tel Aviv was like any other sleepy coastal town on the Mediterranean. It had a moderate-sized commercial district, a handful of apartment buildings, residences, a pretty beach and a road stretching north toward Jerusalem.

This time, as the El Al Boeing 777 made its approach over the sea, I could see dozens of high-rise offices, major industrial sites, modern skyscrapers and a bustling metropolis. Then, the road to Jerusalem was a two-lane highway, along which we sped without interference from other traffic. Today, it is a crowded four-lane expressway, and the traffic is more reminiscent of Interstate 5 between San Diego and Los Angeles. Back then, when we took a brief walk through the ancient, twisting alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Via Dolorosa with its unique sights, sounds and smells was bustling with Europeans, Americans, Christians, Jews and Moslems, pilgrims, tourists, the prayerful and pagan all jammed together in a delightful cacophony of noise and jostling. But this time, the same cobblestones that Roman legionnaires, Jewish prophets and Christ once trod were almost as empty as Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. It was shocking.

It took me a few days to figure it out. The shuttered shops, lonely overlooks and empty vistas were a manifestation of cowardice. That's a pretty tough word, but I can think of no other. The fearfulness isn't that of Israelis. The much maligned people of this nation have made the Negev bloom, and the skyline of Tel Aviv and the hills around the New City of Jerusalem bristle with high-rise businesses and condos in a building boom that rivals that of any nation on earth. And they have done it all with one hand holding a weapon to protect themselves from angry, resentful and bitter neighbors. And the apprehension isn't in the hearts or minds of Israeli Arabs who live in peace with their Jewish neighbors here in this much-contested capital city. No, the fear resides instead with pusillanimous pilgrims, the craven "Christians," and cowardly Jews of Europe and the United States who have decided to stay home, giving the two-bit street thugs of Yasser Arafat's Al Aqsa suicide brigades and Hamas a victory they could never have won against the people of Israel.

Forget that your daughter is safer on the streets of Israel than she would be in most American cities. Ignore that here, more people are casualties of automobile accidents than of terrorists. Disregard the arrival this week of more than 400 American Jews -- mothers, fathers, children -- who chose to emigrate from the United States to Israel. None of that matters. All that counts is what shows up on the evening news and above the fold in our newspapers.

If it bleeds it leads -- and that's about all most Westerners know about what's happening here. And that's a shame, because the loss of revenue from U.S. and European tourism is having devastating consequences for Jew and Arab alike in this holy land.

Since I'm here broadcasting for Radio America as part of the America's Voices program, sponsored by the Jerusalem Post, El Al Airlines and the David Citadel Hotel, I've had access to all levels of government officialdom, average Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens, even Palestinians. All have been far

more diplomatic than I in expressing their disappointment in the lack of official, commercial and tourist visitors. But some have been blunt.

"It has been devastating to our economy and to our outreach," said Tom Rose, CEO and publisher of the 70-year-old Jerusalem Post -- who immigrated to Israel from Indiana just four years ago.

Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem -- who carries the Jewish and Arab Israeli vote in every election -- said: "I'm just like the mayor of any other big city. I get more complaints about potholes than anything else. But all the press wants to talk about is terrorists."

Natan Sharansky, Israel's deputy prime minister, and one of the world's preeminent human rights activists, told me: "We are much better off than it seems in your media. I was just in the United States a few weeks ago to meet with Vice President Cheney. I read your newspapers, your news magazines. I watch your TV news. What we need now is for the people of your country to show as much support as President Bush did in his magnificent speech of June 24." He was referring to the president's call for democracy in the West Bank and Gaza.

And when I asked former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the economic impact of the drop in tourism, he bluntly replied: "Sure it's bad. It's off by more than 60 percent. If it weren't for the bravery of those Evangelical Christians who have kept coming, it would be devastating."

He's right. And his sentiment is shared by Rabbi Yechiel Z. Eckstein, the founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews -- the organization that has helped more than 200,000 Jews to return to the Promised Land from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Ethiopia, Latin America and, now, the United States. In an interview at Ben Gurion Airport following an emotional welcome to those who had just arrived from the United States, he told me: "If it were not for the involvement of American Evangelical Christians, we would be devastated. It is their prayers, financial support and engagement that have lifted us up with wings of eagles," just as the prophet Isaiah said."

That is certainly true based on my observations this week. But what's needed now isn't more political rhetoric from the professional politicians, nor fear-mongering from the masters of the media, nor whining from the weak of spirit. What's needed is for America's Christians and Jews to get off their duffs and show a little more chutzpah. (Townhall.com Jul 12)

And a Thief, Too: Yasser Arafat takes what he likes. By Rachel Ehrenfeld

President Bush's call to change the Palestinian leadership and to bring reform, accountability, and transparency to the Palestinian Authority should focus attention on the financial corruption of Arafat's regime. Before Bush's speech, Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, accurately summed up the situation in the San Jose Mercury News: "Frankly, the Palestinian Authority, which is corrupt and cavorts with terror, . . . is not the basis for a Palestinian state moving forward." Judging by the response of Yasser Arafat and his lieutenants, however, no such change is likely anytime soon.

How corrupt is the PA? How much money have Arafat et al. stashed away? Where did the money come from? How long have we known about it?

The first public evidence that Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization had at least \$10 billion came to light when the Pakistani-owned rogue Bank of Credit and Commerce International was shut down by the Bank of England on July 5, 1991. Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) published its own estimate of the PLO's loot in a 1993 briefing paper on organizations threatening the UK, calling it "the richest of all terrorist organizations." NCIS estimated the PLO's ill-gotten gains at \$8-10 billion. In addition, the PLO enjoyed an annual income of about \$1.5-2 billion from "donations, extortion, payoffs, illegal arms dealing, drug trafficking, money laundering, fraud, etc."

In the U.S., the General Accounting Office investigation of Arafat and the PA's wealth in November 1995 was kept secret because the CIA insisted that the publicity would hurt the "national security interest." This despite the CIA's own report in 1990 that the PLO had \$8-14 billion.

Then came the Oslo accords. Following the 1993 ceremony on the White House lawn, Arafat pleaded poverty and set out, hat in hand, on a world aid tour, claiming that the peace process would collapse without financial support from the international community.

Exactly how much money Arafat and his gang have pocketed is hard to ascertain. But the conspicuous consumption of Arafat and his inner circle - rows of ostentatious villas, shopping sprees in Paris, and late-model Mercedes-Benzes - has not gone unnoticed by ordinary Palestinians, who live in dismal conditions.

When \$326 million disappeared from PA coffers in 1996, the Palestinian Legislative Council established a special commission to investigate corruption within the PA. The ensuing report found that nearly 40 percent of the PA's \$800 million annual budget (coming mostly from foreign aid) had been lost through

corruption and mismanagement. The PA's comptroller wrote: "The overall picture is one of a Mafia-style government, where the main point of being in public office is to get rich quick." Arafat suppressed the report but promised reform.

In October 1999, Azmi Shuaibi, chairman of the PLC's Budget Committee, had harsh words for the PA at the 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Durban, South Africa: "The recent corruption found in the PA is similar to the corruption that exists in the rest of the Arab countries' governments."

Soon after, the London Daily Telegraph revealed that computer hackers had broken the security code of the PLO's computer system, uncovering records of about \$8 billion the PLO held in numbered bank accounts in New York, Geneva, and Zurich, and smaller secret accounts in North Africa, Europe, and Asia. The newspaper also unearthed further secret holdings of the PLO - including front companies, European real estate, and shares in Mercedes-Benz and the national airlines of the Maldives and Guinea-Bissau - totaling about \$50 billion for the year 2000 (up from \$32 billion recorded in 1998). Naturally, Arafat and his men denied the report.

Ongoing demonstrations by disgruntled Palestinians frustrated with this corruption convinced Arafat that his rule was becoming shaky. It was in large measure to deflect internal turmoil that he launched the intifada.

In 2000, Arab countries pledged \$1 billion to the PA to ease the economic hardship of the Palestinians. Past dealings with Arafat, however, prompted them to demand that "Chairman Arafat show complete transparency in the funds" and provide a detailed report on how the money would be spent. Arafat refused to comply, and the Arab leaders suspended transfer of the money, telling the PLO chairman that they were doing so "for fear that the money will end up in the wrong pockets."

By April 2001, however, things had changed: Arab donor countries, recognizing in Arafat's intifada a convenient distraction from their own countries' problems, began pumping money again into the PA. At least \$45 million per month was transferred directly to Arafat, most notably from the Saudis and Saddam Hussein. This money was not given to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, but to fund PLO terrorist training and organizations, such as Islamic Jihad and the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Recently, the monthly donations from Arab nations were increased to \$55 million, in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars raised in special events to fund the escalating intifada, such as the now infamous Saudi telethon to raise money for the families of Palestinian homicide bombers.

Money flows in from the European Union, too. Despite voluminous evidence of use of aid money to fund terrorism collected by the Israeli Defense Forces at Arafat's compound in Ramallah - including handwritten instructions from Arafat himself - millions of dollars continue to pour in from the EU. Why? Chris Patten, the EU commissioner, wrote on May 7 that "the EU had not seen any hard evidence that the EU funds have been misused to finance terrorism or for any other purpose."

"Arafat Bombs, Europe Pays" was the headline of the German newspaper Die Zeit on June 7. The newspaper's special investigation into EU funding revealed that at least 4.1 billion euros have flowed from the EU to the PA since the autumn of 1993, in addition to hundreds of millions of euros in grants contributed by individual European countries. When the Israelis stopped transferring the PA's share of revenues from import duties after realizing where the money was going, the EU stepped in to replace those funds. Each month since June 2001, 10 million euros have been paid directly to Arafat.

Die Zeit reported that a few European legislators called for an end to the funding for fear that the money was being used to fund terrorism. But Chris Patten dismissed these concerns, praising "Europe's especially strict mechanisms for ex-ante and ex-post controls." Not even the interception of the illegal arms shipment from Iran on the Karine-A fazed EU bureaucrats. So, the financial umbilical cord from Europe to the PA remains, and the IMF representative charged with monitoring how the funds are used admits that "we do not oversee how every euro is spent, because we are not auditors."

On June 19, following a slew of homicide bombings by Arafat's al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the EU parliament voted to give an additional \$17.7 million to the PA. According to the Associated Press, "Patten conceded that corruption in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority and other problems made it impossible to know where every euro finally ended up [because] 'it's an impossible question to ask in the real world.'"

But perhaps some in the Arab world have had enough. On June 5, the Kuwaiti daily Al-Watan published documents it received from a Cairo branch of a Middle Eastern bank showing that Arafat had deposited \$5.1 million into his personal account - to support his wife and daughter, who live in Paris and

Switzerland. According to the same report, the money came from Arab aid funds that had been allocated for the Palestinian people.

By now, EU aid to Arafat and the PA has reached at least \$4.5-5 billion. U.S. aid to the PA runs about \$75 million annually, not including the millions of dollars sent each year from private sources. Corruption is rife, and today the Palestinians are further away from democracy than ever before. As long as Arafat controls the PA's funds and he and his gang remain in power, no real reform is possible. (National Review July 12)

Go down to Egypt Jerusalem Post Editorial

So Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh, Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, and now Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer have gone down to Egypt to confer with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, all within the space of a week. For what?

Ostensibly, the topic of conversation is the reform of the Palestinian Authority and a reduction in the level of violence, both of which are areas where Mubarak is thought to have the power to play a constructive role. Indeed, he does have that power. But it is power he has conspicuously failed to exercise for years, choosing instead to cultivate the image of honest broker with the US while playing the part of spoiler against Israel. With their visits to Egypt, the Labor Party's current batch of wise men have merely helped Mubarak further along this path.

This is foolish. It is also dangerous. Our supposed ally in the struggle for Middle East peace demonstrates its hostility to us at nearly every turn. Often, it does so in extraordinarily petty ways. Contrary to ordinary protocol, Israeli flags are not flown when Israeli diplomats confer with their Egyptian opposites at Sharm el Sheikh. The Israeli embassy will not be serviced for its workaday needs by Egyptian plumbers, bricklayers and the like. Israeli doctors must be flown to Cairo to treat embassy personnel, as Egyptian doctors refuse to do so.

Then too, when two Egyptian journalists showed up at our Cairo embassy's Independence Day celebration last year, they quickly found themselves evicted from their professional guild. There is little by way of academic contact because the Egyptian intelligensia operates under similar threat. The state-run Egyptian media gives its colleagues in Baghdad a run for their money when it comes to rantings against Jews. Meanwhile, Egypt refuses to send an ambassador to Tel Aviv, in contravention to its obligations under the Camp David Accords, or maintain ordinary trade relations with us, except to the extent that they can profit from our reliance on their natural gas.

All this may be dismissed as merely what's to be expected from an Arab autocracy that must keep its radical domestic critics at bay, and a reasonable price for Israel to pay for a secure southern frontier. Yet the southern frontier is not secure. Palestinian weapons are every day smuggled through tunnels running beneath the Egyptian and Palestinian sides of Rafah, and the Egyptian government does little to help Israel prevent the smuggling.

Egypt's military - the recipient of billions in American largesse - continues to see Israel as its principal strategic adversary, and trains to fight accordingly. The Ariel Center estimates that as much as 30% of Egypt's gross domestic product is steered toward military expenditures, about the same as the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era. Most worrisomely, the Egyptian military is equipped with state-of-the-art American equipment, including Harpoon missiles, F-16s, and M1-A1 tanks, all of which goes far to reduce Israel's qualitative edge.

Reasonable people must ask what Egypt, a country with massive and growing economic problems, intends with all this expenditure. To defend itself against Yemen? Or Libya? Yet instead of drawing appropriate conclusions, successive Israeli governments have been silent, presumably in hopes that by not calling attention to a problem they might make it go away.

The same, it must be said, goes for US policy toward what Fouad Ajami has called its "runaway ally." Mubarak has not only snubbed the US when it suited his convenience - most recently, by refusing to meet with Secretary of State Colin Powell during his visit in May - he has also put himself squarely in the way of US efforts to see both Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein deposed. Yet for this he has been repaid with indulgence: weekend visits to Camp David; forgiveness of Egyptian debt and, of course, undiminished economic and military assistance.

Of course, if Israel continues to act as if Egypt plays a positive role in the region, the US is likely to follow suit. Yet indulging bad behavior has never yielded good results. At some point, Egypt must be made to pay a price for failing to deliver on its end of the bargain. Just the threat of diminished US military support would go far to achieve this result. Israelis can do their part by refusing to play a part in Mubarak's charade. (Jerusalem Post Jul 16)

Boycotting the Juden By David Tell

Professor Mona Baker, Egyptian native and professional Jew hater, commits to cleansing her "intercultural communication" journal.

There've been some developments over the past few days in the case of Professor Mona Baker, director of the Center for Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in England. Turns out she's a native Egyptian, for one thing. Which by itself would be an altogether unremarkable detail--had Professor Baker not recently made herself internationally notorious for a particularly outlandish expression of hostility to . . . um . . . Jewish people.

In case you missed it: Sometime around late April, a petition began circulating in British universities calling for a full-scale academic boycott of Israel--specifically, for a European Union moratorium on funding of Israeli scholarship until the Sharon government proves willing to abandon the use of force in response to Palestinian terrorist attacks. Forget the selective disapproval of violence on display here; purely on its own terms, as a practical political device, such a boycott is risibly illogical. How exactly will an aid cut-off to Israel's professoriat--one of that country's most dovish demographics--work to rein in the Likud Party's off-campus hawks? How, for that matter, does a blanket ostracism of Israeli scholars in disciplines remote from politics--biochemistry, for example--make sense? And how can British dons marching under the supposed banner of academic freedom countenance any sort of research boycott at all? Yes, well. One makes one's minor compromises with principle where necessary to put the Jews in their place, doesn't one?

Over the past six weeks, the British Association of University Teachers has formally endorsed the Israel ban. As has "NATFHE," the lecturer's union. As have more than 700 individual academic signatories to the original boycott petition. And Mona Baker is one of them. Only she has gone her colleagues a step further. Having thought globally, she has acted locally, purging a pair of Israeli professors from the editorial and advisory boards of two academic journals she edits. "I can no longer live with the idea of cooperating with Israelis as such"--even, apparently, on a magazine subtitled "Studies in Intercultural Communication"--"unless it is explicitly in the context of campaigning for human rights in Palestine," she has written to one of her purgees. She signed that petition, and so she believes herself morally obliged to abandon "official association with any Israeli under the present circumstances." Again, all this happened back in late April, and for more than a month afterwards, apart from a handful of mocking op-ed pieces and complaints from England's not-especially-influential Jewish organizations, Ms. Baker went about her ordinary business with very little trouble. Was the University of Manchester, her employer, at all concerned that Baker's suddenly *Judenrein* publications continued to bear its logo on their mastheads?

Actually, no. Manchester does not own or otherwise finance the magazines, you see, so its administrators were able to brush off the incident as one faculty member's purely private affair. And there things stood, more or less, until just this past weekend. Whereupon Baker--apparently irked by transatlantic criticism from Harvard's Stephen Greenblatt, Shakespeare authority and current president of the Modern Language Association--decided to grant an incendiary interview to the Sunday Telegraph of London. She herself is the victim, Baker told the Telegraph: "There is a large intimidation machine out there," organized by international bankers one supposes. And this machine means to silence all critical commentary on Israeli government policy. And "the Americans are the worst offenders." But "I'm damned if I'm going to be intimidated." And as if to prove it, Baker went on to liken Israel to Nazi Germany: "Israel has gone beyond just war crimes. It is horrific what is going on there. Many of us would like to talk about it as some kind of Holocaust which the world will eventually wake up to, much too late, of course, as they did with the last one."

Baker's Telegraph interview seems finally to have aroused a popular reaction against her. Fleet Street, at least, has besieged her anew, publicizing the fact--which Baker had previously refused to acknowledge--that she was born and raised in Egypt. Best of all, Baker has finally earned a formal reproof from within the British academy. Earlier this week, London's Guardian reports, the National Union of Students, while voting to condemn faculty efforts to boycott Israel as "an abuse of academic freedom" generally, singled out Mona Baker's purge as particularly "racist" and obnoxious. (Weekly Standard Jul 11)

The writer is opinion editor of The Weekly Standard.