

Events...

Wednesday, October 2 . 8:30 PM

Toronto **Chug Aliyah** meeting at the home of Yaakov & Chaya Feldman, 543 Coldstream Avenue, Toronto
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Toronto One Israel Missions

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Commentary...

Our Christian Friends Jerusalem Post Editorial

Despite arecent upsurge in Palestinian terror attacks and intelligence warnings indicating a possible suicide bomber might be headed toward the capital, the streets of Jerusalem were delightfully full yesterday as thousands took part in the city's annual Succot (Feast of Tabernacles) march.

With color, pomp, and ceremony, marchers wound their way through the streets, spreading cheer and goodwill in a city that has seen more than its fair share of violence and grief since the start of the Palestinian terror campaign two years ago.

Among those taking part in the festivities were thousands of Christian supporters of Israel, whose love for the country and its people was clearly on display. Hailing from dozens of nations around the globe, many of the pilgrims are visiting under the auspices of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which has been organizing such events since it was launched in 1980.

The importance of the march goes far beyond its entertainment value. It serves as a refreshing reminder that although we are besieged by enemies at home, we still have plenty of warm and caring friends abroad who are willing to stand with us even in the most difficult of times. Indeed, even as the UN Security Council was busy condemning Israel for having the nerve to defend itself against Yasser Arafat's onslaught of terror, the Christian marchers helped to drown out the criticism emanating from New York thanks to their merriment and high spirits.

The growing popularity of the annual Jerusalem march among Christians worldwide is a testament to the rising support Israel enjoys in various Christian quarters, particularly among Evangelicals in the United States. As Michael Freund noted in a feature story in last Friday's Jerusalem Post, "No one outside the Jewish community has been more supportive of Israel than US Evangelical Christians, and they've just begun to get better organized." The reasons behind this groundswell of backing are linked both to our security predicament and the phenomenal growth of Evangelical Christianity, now said to number as many as 50 million people in America. Bible-believing Christians throughout the US hold firm views regarding the State of Israel's role in the divine plan for history and, more than ever before, they have begun to put their money, and their political clout, to work on its behalf.

Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the first Israeli leaders to energetically reach out to US Christians, actively courting their support and encouraging them to work on our behalf. On two separate occasions, when Netanyahu was effectively summoned to Washington by an exasperated Bill Clinton seeking to pressure him into making further concessions, large numbers of US Christians turned out to greet him and voice their support.

The sudden burst of Christian pro-Israel activity did not emerge out of thin air, of course. It is the result of a lot of vision and hard work. Groups such as the Kansas-based National Unity Coalition for Israel, which is run by the

ISRAEL NEWS

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Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation

indefatigable Esther Levens, have brought together dozens of Christian and Jewish organizations across the US, literally mobilizing millions of people to press their elected representatives on Israel-related issues. Working through constituent groups such as Bridges for Peace and Christian Friends of Israel, the coalition has helped to educate numerous Americans about the importance of a strong US-Israel relationship, and it has become a

leading voice for Israel in the halls of power in Washington.

Other groups, such as Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein's International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, and Sondra Oster Baras' Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, have played a crucial role in rallying financial support from US Christians to fund a range of social and humanitarian projects here. From assisting Russian and Ethiopian Jews to make aliya to defraying the costs associated with their absorption once they arrive, the IFJC has succeeded in raising tens of millions of dollars annually from American Christians, enabling them to play an active role in improving Israeli society. And CFOIC, through its work with Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, has helped to energize greater levels of support among Christians for Jewish residents of the territories.

Needless to say, some Israelis look askance at such expressions of Christian friendship, fearing that they are intended to conceal a missionary agenda aimed at converting Jews. Last week, in fact, the Jerusalem Municipality reportedly turned down a request by a so-called Messianic Jewish group which had sought to take part in yesterday's march, because of concerns it would exploit the event to proselytize.

Having suffered so much from forced conversions at the hands of Christians throughout the past two millennia, it is hardly surprising that many Jews are apprehensive, even skeptical, about the sudden outpouring of love and support. But, while fending off missionary elements is certainly important and even necessary, it would be wrong to automatically dismiss all Christians as surreptitious soul-snatchers.

There are undoubtedly those who use pro-Israel activities as a ruse for proselytizing, but there are also many deeply devoted Christian friends of Israel whose sincerity and commitment is beyond reproach, and whose only agenda is to live in accordance with God's promise to Abraham: "I will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you." And when it comes to our Christian friends, it seems safe to say that they will most assuredly be blessed. (Jerusalem Post Sep 25)

Garibaldi Street, Ramallah By Michael Freund

After two years of relentless Palestinian terror, there is something refreshingly ironic about Yasser Arafat's current plight. Holed up in what remains of his Ramallah compound known as the Mukata, Arafat now finds himself surrounded by Jews in uniform, members of the very same people he has devoted his career to mercilessly killing and destroying.

With their rifles at the ready, these proud young defenders of the Jewish people stand prepared to bring the Palestinian leader to justice, if only Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will give the order. This is a moment we should all be relishing.

Indeed, not since May 1960, when Israeli agents apprehended German mastermind Adolf Eichmann outside his Buenos Aires home on Garibaldi Street, has a mass murderer of Jews been so close to being captured.

In his account of the operation, The House on Garibaldi Street, Mossad chief Isser Harel explained the reason behind his determination to bring Eichmann to justice: "In everything pertaining to the Jews, he was the paramount authority and his were the hands that pulled the strings controlling manhunt and massacre... this man was pointed to as the head butcher."

By now, it should be clear to all that those words offer an apt description of Arafat, as well. It is Arafat's hand that signed the checks to fund Palestinian terror attacks against Israel. And it is Arafat's voice that gave the green light to Hamas, Islamic Jihad and his own Fatah movement to launch

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suicide-bombing attacks against innocent men, women and children. And it is Arafat's mind that plotted and oversaw the present wave of Palestinian terror.

"His were the hands that pulled the strings..." As a result, more than 600 innocent Israelis have been murdered in the past two years by Palestinian terrorists. That is 600 compelling reasons to bring Arafat to justice. Which is not to mention the Munich Olympics massacre, the Achille Lauro hijacking or other various atrocities perpetrated over the years by the PLO.

The French are said to be "appalled," and the rest of Europe is hopping mad, that Israel now dares to turn up the heat on the leader of the Palestinian revolution.

Let them fume all they wish. They stood by silently as Eichmann's henchmen murdered Jews half a century ago, and they spoke out in protest only when Israel hunted him down and brought him to trial.

Then, as now, they do nothing to stop the killing of Jews, but everything to stop the State of Israel from seeking justice.

But, with Arafat in its crosshairs, Israel now has an opportunity to remind the world, and many Israelis too, about the meaning of Zionism and Jewish sovereignty: namely, that those who kill Jews can no longer do so with impunity.

It was a lesson that guided the state in its early years, giving rise to the daring operation that brought Eichmann to a courthouse in Jerusalem. But that lesson was largely brushed aside over much of the past decade, when the government chose to court Arafat rather than haul him before a court.

The Palestinian leader, of course, is no Eichmann, and it would be wrong to compare the Palestinians to the Nazis. The point here, quite simply, is this: anyone who murders Jews, as Arafat has done, must be made to pay for his actions.

In his last address to his men before the end of the Second World War, Eichmann is reported by one of his close associates to have said these chilling words: "I shall leap into my grave laughing, because the feeling that I have the deaths of five million people on my conscience will be for me a source of extraordinary satisfaction." Israel's task now is to ensure that Arafat knows no similar sense of contentment.

After pursuing him on and off over the past four decades for his lethal anti-Jewish terror, Israel now has Arafat in its sights, in the modern-day equivalent of the house on Garibaldi Street, in the heart of Ramallah.

Now is the time for Israel to finish the job. Now is the time to bring Arafat to justice once and for all. (Jerusalem Post Sep 25)

The writer served as deputy director of communications & policy planning in the Prime Minister's Office from 1996 to 1999.

The War Oslo Wrought By Norman Podhoretz:

I wish I could come up with a catchy label for the second intifada, but in my judgment, the two best candidates are either "The War that Oslo Wrought" or "The Peace-Process War." Unfortunately both are too clumsy to be adopted.

Nevertheless, each in its own way captures the truth about the latest front in the continuing struggle the Arab/Muslim world began waging against the Jewish state even before Israel was actually established.

Nor is this a matter of hindsight. Some of us predicted when the Oslo accords were signed that they would lead not to peace but to war. For this we were derided and dismissed by the architects and supporters of that nefarious treaty, which has earned a place of dishonor in the dark history of appeasement alongside the agreement concluded in Munich in 1938 by Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler.

I must confess, however, that while we were right in general, none of us foresaw the precise nature of the coming war. What we anticipated was "old-fashioned" Palestinian terrorism designed to provoke Israeli reprisals, which would in turn escalate into a mighty last-ditch jihad by the Arab states aimed at a "final solution" of their own version of the "Jewish problem." Well, the terrorism materialized, but in a form more diabolically evil than we had been capable of imagining.

Now it remains to be seen whether The War That Oslo Wrought will end in a return to the deal that triggered it. If so, Shimon Peres and his confederates, incurably blinded by their illusions, will have created the conditions for yet another war to which his name will deserve to be attached.

The writer was editor of Commentary magazine from 1960-1995, and is the author of "My Love Affair With America: The Cautionary Tale of a Cheerful Conservative." This article appeared as one of several in a special feature entitled "Naming the War." (JPost.com Sep)

Refugees First By Ovadia Soffer

During the 54 years of Israel's existence the problem of the Palestinian refugees has been the torch and the fuel for the continued burning of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But it is instructive to note that all peace efforts have

focused so far on the problem of the territories, while the refugee problem, once the main weapon the Arabs used against Israel's independent existence, was pushed into a secondary position.

The winds of conciliation that occasionally blew in the Middle East, whether after the peace agreements were signed with Egypt and with Jordan or after the Oslo Accords, did not in the least soften the pan-Arab demand of the refugees: "right of return to their homes."

Yasser Arafat, who apparently never meant to sign any agreement that would put an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, used the "right of return" as the reason to reject Ehud Barak's generous offers and as an excuse to undermine the historic compromise offered to him by Clinton and Barak at the last Camp David conference.

THE DEMAND of a right of return has disastrous implications for the refugees themselves, who continue to live, with their second and third generation descendants, in detention camps, without the possibility of moving to other Arab countries. These countries refuse to accept them and perpetuate the refugee problem by using them as pawns in the conflict with Israel and as excuses for their domestic problems.

The Egyptians denied the residents of Gaza the right to travel to Egypt even when they controlled Gaza and they continue to forbid them from entering Egypt. Jordan recently restricted travel for residents of the West Bank, even though many of them are Jordanian citizens.

It is no wonder then that Palestinian terrorism flourished and continues to flourish under the strangling conditions the Arab states continue to impose on the Palestinian refugees. Syria, Lebanon and Iraq tightened the noose around the refugees' necks and train and arm the young generation to continue fighting Israel, including the use of suicide bombing "martyrs," who have become a phenomenon beyond Israel and the Middle East.

Even today peace efforts focus on interim arrangements with the Palestinians although experience shows these will only perpetuate the conflict and allow the Palestinians to organize for the armed struggle, which the Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat has never condemned.

It seems that without a thorough resolution of the refugee problem first there can be no real peace between the Palestinians and us. To solve this complicated problem Israel needs solid international support, mainly of the US and the EU, which have the ability to pressure the Arab states to carry the main burden of the physical resettlement of the Palestinian refugees. This pressure should be based on the fact that generations of refugees cannot continue living in camps without the possibility of equal integration, as is the norm in the enlightened world.

Even an agreement in principle of the Arab states to resettle the refugees that live on their soil would be a confidence building measure that would counterbalance a demand that Israel freeze the settlements.

The international conference proposed by Israel and adopted by the "quartet" (US, Russia, the EU and the UN) has to place the refugee issue at the top of its agenda. It is an existential problem for the Palestinians and only international recognition of its precedence over the problems of the territories and other disputes can take the peace process out of the deadlock it is in.

Few dispute the assessment that a victorious US offensive against Iraq and the removal of Saddam Hussein can engender positive changes and move the region towards peace and conciliation. This must include the resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem, while ensuring their right and the right of the Jews from Arab countries who left substantial property in their countries of origin, to receive reparations and international aid for their resettlement. *The writer is a former ambassador to France.* (Jerusalem Post Sep 22)

The Case for Toppling Saddam By Benjamin Netanyahu

The longer America waits, the more dangerous he becomes.

Sept. 11 alerted most Americans to the grave dangers that are now facing our world. Most Americans understand that had al Qaeda possessed an atomic device last September, the city of New York would not exist today. They realize that last week we could have grieved not for thousands of dead, but for millions.

But for others around the world, the power of imagination is apparently not so acute. It appears that these people will have to once again see the unimaginable materialize in front of their eyes before they are willing to do what must be done. For how else can one explain opposition to President Bush's plan to dismantle Saddam Hussein's regime?

I do not mean to suggest that there are not legitimate questions about a potential operation against Iraq. Indeed, there are. But the question of whether removing Saddam's regime is itself legitimate is not one of them. Equally immaterial is the argument that America cannot oust Saddam without prior approval of the international community.

This is a dictator who is rapidly expanding his arsenal of biological and chemical weapons, who has used these weapons of mass destruction against

his subjects and his neighbors, and who is feverishly trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

The dangers posed by a nuclear-armed Saddam were understood by my country two decades ago, well before Sept. 11. In 1981, Prime Minister Menachem Begin dispatched the Israeli air force on a predawn raid that destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak. Though at the time Israel was condemned by all the world's governments, history has rendered a far kinder judgment on that act of unquestionable foresight and courage.

Two decades ago it was possible to thwart Saddam's nuclear ambitions by bombing a single installation. Today nothing less than dismantling his regime will do. For Saddam's nuclear program has changed. He no longer needs one large reactor to produce the deadly material necessary for atomic bombs. He can produce it in centrifuges the size of washing machines that can be hidden throughout the country--and Iraq is a very big country. Even free and unfettered inspections will not uncover these portable manufacturing sites of mass death.

We now know that had the democracies taken pre-emptive action to bring down Hitler's regime in the 1930s, the worst horrors in history could have been avoided. And we now know, from defectors and other intelligence, that had Israel not launched its pre-emptive strike on Saddam's atomic-bomb factory recent history would have taken a far more dangerous course.

I write this as a citizen of the country that is most endangered by a pre-emptive strike. For in the last gasps of his dying regime, Saddam may well attempt to launch his remaining missiles, with their biological and chemical warheads, at the Jewish State.

Though I am today a private citizen, I believe I speak for the overwhelming majority of Israelis in supporting a pre-emptive strike against Saddam's regime. We support this American action even though we stand on the front lines, while others criticize it as they sit comfortably on the sidelines. But we know that their sense of comfort is an illusion. For if action is not taken now, we will all be threatened by a much greater peril.

We support this action because it is possible today to defend against chemical and biological attack. There are gas masks, vaccinations and other means of civil defense that can protect our citizens and reduce the risks to them.

Indeed, a central component of any strike on Iraq must be to ensure that the Israeli government, if it so chooses, has the means to vaccinate every citizen of Israel before action is initiated. Ensuring this is not merely the responsibility of the government of Israel, but also the responsibility of the government of the U.S.

But no gas mask and no vaccine can protect against nuclear weapons. That is why regimes that have no compunction about using weapons of mass destruction, and that will not hesitate to give them to their terror proxies, must never be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons. These regimes must be brought down before they possess the power to bring us all down.

If a pre-emptive action will be supported by a broad coalition of free countries and the U.N., all the better. But if such support is not forthcoming, then the U.S. must be prepared to act without it. This will require courage, and I see it abundantly present in President Bush's bold leadership and in the millions of Americans who have rallied behind him.

I recognize this courage because I see it on the faces of my countrymen every day. Millions of Israelis who have been subjected to an unprecedented campaign of terror have stood firmly behind our government in the war against Palestinian terror. We have not crumbled. We have not run. We have stood our ground and fought back.

Today the terrorists have the will to destroy us but not the power. Today we have the power to destroy them. Now we must summon the will to do so. Mr. Netanyahu is a former prime minister of Israel. (Wall Street Journal Sep 20)

What's Sauce for the Goose... By Gabriel Danzig

US President George W. Bush's recent speech to the UN on the danger that Iraq poses to the people of the world, and the necessity of taking strong preemptive measures to forestall that danger, is a model of courageous and rational thinking.

It is so much easier to wait until after the disaster before reacting. It requires so little courage, so little effort, so little risk of being wrong, or being portrayed as wrong. Only deeply responsible leaders know that all of that does not matter when set in the balance of millions of innocent lives at risk.

The first to take preemptive action against Iraq was the late prime minister Menachem Begin, whose assault on the Iraqi nuclear facility was widely condemned both in Israel and abroad. Today no one questions the wisdom. The measure of a great leader is his willingness to do the right thing, even if it means taking the blame. Bush is following in Begin's footsteps, taking serious personal risks in order to prevent catastrophe, once again in Iraq.

There is a great deal to justify the attack. There are the unambiguous reasons, the facts. Iraq has broken agreements with the United Nations and refused to allow inspections of its weapons. Iraq has committed numerous acts of

aggressive violence against other nations, and against its own people, killing somewhere in the vicinity of a million.

In addition, Bush has enough intelligence information to be able to conclude that the destructive aims have not changed. The constant efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction give a clear indication of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's intentions for the future. Even though future intentions can never be fully documented, we have to make reasonable projections and act on them. In cases like these, past performance is the most reliable indicator.

And what is crucial in all this is that this last warning really seems to be the last. There is a limit in Bush's mind as to how many times an additional chance has to be given, on the off-chance that a miracle has occurred and the leopard has changed its spots. At some point you have to draw a conclusion, and Bush seems prepared to do so.

SO WHERE is the big mistake? The mistake is that Bush does not seem to see that the Palestinian Authority fits into the same pattern as that of Saddam's Iraq, and that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. The PA has violated all of its pledges to restrain violence, and has actively supported and instigated the murder of Israeli citizens. Its leaders were granted land, weapons, money and political authority in return for only one pledge: to restrain the violence; but they did the opposite of that.

Hundreds of people have lost their lives in Arafat's Oslo war, and no one knows how many more will follow after them.

If Oslo was a test, the results are in and they are unambiguous: The Palestinians have shown time and time again that they are not interested in living together with Israel in peace.

This is not just a matter of a corrupt leadership. Whatever the cause, at least 85 percent of the Palestinian population now fully supports the killing of any and all Israeli Jews. The evidence of good neighborly intentions is just not there.

And yet, despite all of that, Bush made it clear that there is still room to consider the possibility of creating a Palestinian state within the borders of present-day Israel. After all the warnings, all the evidence, all the chances, there has to come a time when you have to reach a conclusion and an estimation about what the future will bring.

It is difficult at this point to remember the days when Israel made the great concession in Oslo and agreed to a trial period of goodwill leading up to some sort of autonomy for the Palestinians. Hopes were high that we had finally resolved the conflict. But all that is past. Now we know that the hopes for reciprocity were illusions; that there is no intention of peace with Israel; that the demands remain incompatible with the security and survival of the Jewish state.

Today, very few people think that creating a Palestinian state within the borders of present-day Israel will really lead to a stable peace. Anyone familiar with the region knows that even with the best intentions on both sides, geographical considerations make continued friction and hostility very likely -- and the goodwill is not there.

Few think that with the creation of a state friction will cease. Some Palestinian partisans may support the creation of a Palestinian state because they would be happy to be given the opportunity to take more aggressive action against the Jews of Israel.

But in the West (and in Israel), you are more likely to hear that a state should be created even if it will not bring peace, just because you have to do something, and that seems like the only thing left to try.

But that kind of thinking is anathema to responsible decision-makers. It involves closing our eyes to all the evidence of what a Palestinian state will really mean. It means putting millions of people at risk of full-scale military hostilities within Israel's borders for the sake of taking a chance that we already took, and that already proved unfounded.

Responsible leadership means taking preventative action to forestall situations of great danger to innocent lives. It usually means taking a personal risk. Bush deserves to be congratulated for taking that risk in order to close down Iraq.

But there is no reason why rational responsible decision-making should be excluded from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We have tried the path of Israeli concessions, and it has not worked. It is time to try something in the other direction. (Jerusalem Post Sep 24)

The writer is a classicist at Bar-Ilan University, specializing in political thought.

The Bulldozer's Bulldozers By Uri Dan

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon gave US Secretary of State Colin Powell the reasons that caused his government to decide, unanimously, to completely isolate Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. The long conversation took place last Saturday night, two days after a Palestinian

suicide bomber slaughtered six passengers on bus No. 4 and injured another 60 in Tel Aviv.

"We shall not permit the Palestinians to continue murdering Jews, at the same time telling us they are introducing reforms," said the prime minister.

"Several countries have expressed concern to us and wanted to know why we are destroying the buildings in the Mukata, Arafat's headquarters. But not one wanted to know about the victim of the attack opposite the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv who complained to a nurse in the hospital that he couldn't feel his hand. The nurse lifted the blanket and told him he had lost his hand. None of those who contacted us about the bulldozers took any interest in the innocent citizen whose head was blown off in the terrorist attack."

Sharon told Powell that it would be easier and faster for Israel to send its troops to the Mukata and extract the Palestinian terrorists by force. However, he explained, Israel preferred to use the bulldozer to save as many lives as possible. The operation could be ended rapidly, he said, if all the international pressure were directed at the leader of the terrorism, Arafat, in order to make him hand over the wanted terrorists.

Powell's concern in his phone call to Sharon was understandable. The US had succeeded in recruiting impressive support for its plan that the Palestinians elect a prime minister who would direct their affairs – one who would in fact replace Arafat and be as far as possible from his sphere of influence. In the State Department's view, this was a strategic achievement.

But in Israel's view, Palestinian terrorism itself – during the last two years of the war initiated by Arafat – has become a threat that is also strategic.

Not prepared to let Arafat renew with full force the waves of terrorism that were reduced following Operation Defensive Shield in April, Sharon's concern is no less understandable. He is not prepared for Jews to pay with their blood in the interval until the Palestinians reform.

Sharon is also not prepared for Jews to continue to be murdered while Israel sits on its hands because of the approaching war against Arafat's partner, Saddam Hussein. It would be neither morally nor diplomatically justifiable to wait to deal with Arafat until it can be done amid the fog of battle in Baghdad.

After Hamas assumed responsibility for last week's slaughter in Tel Aviv, the media rushed to announce that Sharon had convened a security-cabinet meeting with the participation of the entire government in order to take a decision to attack Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

But Sharon is experienced enough not to fall into Hamas's dangerous trap, particularly after Israeli military correspondents alerted Hamas to the fact that the IDF would attack. Thus, after preliminary agreement with Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Sharon brought to the cabinet meeting an objective that contained the element of surprise. The movement of IDF tanks and bulldozers toward Arafat's HQ came as a complete shock.

Arafat had done nothing to halt the terrorist offensive. On the contrary, he encouraged it – with the total cooperation of the wanted terrorists to whom he has given protection. But he was tempted to believe that Israel wouldn't dare to renew the siege against him, and so he gave those terrorists refuge.

The bulldozers didn't begin the systematic destruction of the remains of Arafat's kingdom in Ramallah until the government had been persuaded to unanimously approve the prime minister's proposal. To his credit, even Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Arafat's 1994 Nobel Peace Prize partner, supported it.

Certain members of the media attempted to create a distorted picture, as if the razing of the Mukata and the isolation of Arafat would produce no benefit. They claimed Sharon had actually enhanced Arafat's status, when in fact it had already hit rock bottom.

"Sharon saved Arafat" was the headline of an article in Ha'aretz by Danny Rubinstein, a veteran PLO sympathizer. Anchorman Amnon Abramowitz on Channel 1 said that "Arafat has been given artificial respiration" by Israel." Yoram Binur on Channel 2 interviewed Palestinians who insisted Arafat would remain their leader forever. Kol Yisrael announcer Carmit Gai mockingly inquired about the connection between disconnecting the air conditioners in Arafat's offices and the war against terrorism, and asked why Sharon wasn't fighting Hamas.

During the years since the Oslo agreement these self-accredited geniuses have developed the slogan that Arafat is a "partner for peace," and therefore ought to congratulate Sharon for "saving" Arafat, their disappointing hero.

Let me assure them that their joy will be short-lived. The power of the bulldozer in the right time and place is greater than that of the tank. These journalists and their colleagues have never understood what Arafat really is, just as they have never comprehended who Sharon is, when he protects Jews against their murderers.

This human bulldozer, with his decisiveness and ability to taking care of business, is far more powerful than the bulldozers he sent to the Mukata.

During the last day of Succot in 1973, at the peak of the Yom Kippur War, when he commanded the 143rd Armored Division, Sharon prepared bulldozers to break down the high mound of earth on the east bank of the Suez Canal. There he erected a bridgehead for crossing the canal and turned Israel's defeat into

victory. It brought Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem to ask for peace in 1977.

This Succot, Sharon's bulldozers are another step toward the defeat of terrorism. (Jerusalem Post Sep 26)

The writer is the Mideast correspondent of The New York Post.

A Different Perspective By Unknown

I am not the least afraid to go any place, by bus or to a mall. I didn't change or stop doing anything I used to do before this mess began! People tend to forget that twice the casualties from terror get killed on the roads! More people still die from heart attack, cancer, and other things; they just don't show them on TV.

Don't misunderstand me, there is a war going on, it's not pleasant, but lets face it. WE HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER!!!! It's only TV and media that make people think it's the end of the world coming.

Only 60 years ago!! They were leading Jews to their death like sheep to the slaughter! No country, no army. 55 years ago!! Seven Arab countries declared war on the small Jewish state, only a few hours old!! We were then 650,000 Jews! Against the rest of the Arab world! No IDF, no mighty air force, just tough people with nowhere to go (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, attacked all at once).

The country the U.N. "gave us" was 65 % desert. The country started from scratch! 35 years ago!! We fought the three strongest armies in the Middle East, and wiped them out in six days. We fought against different coalitions of Arab countries, with modern armies, and masses of Russian Soviet weapons, and still won!!!

We have today a country, and an army, and a strong air force, and hi-tech economy, exporting millions, Intel-Microsoft-IBM develop their stuff here, our doctors win world prizes for medical developments, we made the desert flourish, selling oranges and vegetables to the world.

Israel has sent its own satellite!! In space (three satellites all together!!), we sit proudly with the U.S. (250 million people), Russia (200 million people!), China (1.1 billion), the Europeans – France-England-Germany (350 million), as the only countries in the world to shoot something into space!!

Israel is today in the world nuclear power family with U.S, Russia, China, India, France, and England. (We don't admit it, but every one knows...) To think that only 60 years ago, we were led, shameful, with no hope, to our death!!

We crawled out of the burning ashes of Europe, we won our wars here with less than nothing in our hands, we built an "empire" out of nothing. Who the hell is Mr. Arafat to make me scared? Terrified? You make me laugh!

Passover was last month; let's not forget what the story is all about. We overcame Pharaoh, we overcame the Greeks, the Romans, the inquisition in Spain, we overcame the pogroms in Russia, we overcame Hitler, the Germans, the Holocaust, we overcame seven other Arab countries at once, we Overcame Saddam. Take it easy, folks, we will overcome these ones, too.

No matter at what part of human history you try! to think of, for us, the Jewish people, our situation has never been better!!! So let's lift our heads high, and remember: any nation or culture that tried to mess around with us was destroyed to the ground - while we kept going!!! Egypt? Anyone know where their empire disappeared to? The Greeks? Alexander of Macedonia? The Romans? Anyone today speak Latin? The Third Reich? Anyone heard any news about it lately?

And look at us, the nation from the Bible, from slavery in Egypt we are still here, speaking the same language!! Right here, right now. The Arabs don't know it yet, but they will learn there is one God. As long as we keep our identity, we are eternal.

So, sorry for not worrying, bitching, crying, or being scared, things are going o.k. here. They surely can go better, but still, don't fall for the media junk, they won't tell you that there are festivals going on, people keep on living, going out, seeing friends. Yes, our morale is low, so what?

It's only because we weep for our dead while they enjoy the blood (and this is the same reason why, we will win, after all).

You can forward this e-mail (if you choose) to the whole of the Jewish community, and the people of the world. They are part of our strength and it might help some of them to keep their head up high. ; tell Them there is nothing to worry about.

Tell them to think BIG and to see the whole picture. "See you next year in Jerusalem."
