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# President's Day: How Harry S Truman Helped God Perform A Miracle

By Jeff Dunetz, Director of Special Projects, Herut North America



February 20th was President's Day. This is the story of a man who wasn't supposed to be President but was thrust into office because of the death of his predecessor. Nearly 74 years ago, the world saw an actual miracle from God. A President of the United States ignored his secretary of State to become God's agent in creating that miracle. After almost two millennia, with help from Harry S Truman, the Jewish people re-established their

political and geographic nation-state on their eternal homeland.

In May 1948, David Ben-Gurion read the declaration of independence for the reborn Jewish State, Israel, and thanks to its President, the U.S. gave that new nation international legitimacy by becoming the first nation to give the country international recognition.

### **Background**

After the Bar Kochba revolt in 135 CE, the Romans punished the Judeans (Jews) for revolting for the second time in sixty years. To poke those rebellious Judeans in the eye, the Romans changed their country's name from Judea to Syria Palaestina. The Romans changed the name to Palaestina because the ancient enemy of the Judeans was the Philistines. The Philistines were long gone by that time, having disappeared from existence around eight hundred years earlier, but the Romans wanted it to hurt.

While most Judeans were exiled, there were Jews who never left Israel. Because they were directed there a long time ago. The first two verses in Genesis Chapter twelve read that the nascent Jews were led to that land by a higher power.

And the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will aggrandize your name, and [you shall] be a blessing.

After the Roman Empire fell apart, the Byzantine Empire took control of the Holy Land around 330 C.E. It was conquered by Muslim Arab forces and the Ottoman Empire about three hundred years later. After WWI, Great Britain was given Palestine to control. They still called the land Palestine which was what the Romans named the land. It was populated by both Jews and Arabs.

But three decades after Great Britain was given the land to rule, on May 14, 1948, the hopes and prayers of so many generations of Jews, that those living in the Holy Land, and those in the Diaspora were finally fulfilled.

There is a song Jews sing every Hanukkah called "Who can retell." The lyrics of this song also apply to the birth of Israel 74 years ago. "Who can retell the things that befell us, Who can count them? In every age, a hero or sage, Came to our aid."

For the birth of Israel in 1948, the hero who came to our aid was American President Harry S Truman.

The Jewish State's existence would have been very short-lived were it not for the strong will of President Harry S Truman, who became the first world leader to recognize Israel, and he did so over the objections of a man who was considered at the time a national hero, Secretary of State George Marshall. At the time, Marshall was much more popular with the American people than President Truman, who had never been elected to the Oval Office. He was the relatively unknown V.P. who took over after FDR passed away.

### To Recognize Israel Truman Had To Fight A National Hero

This President didn't make this decision because of politics. Like many of Truman's policies, he supported Israel because he thought it was right. Of course, some attributed Truman's stance to something else.



“What I am trying to do is make the whole world safe for Jews,” Harry Truman wrote as he agonized over his decision to recognize a Jewish state and end the British Mandate over Palestine.

Secretary of State George Marshall (Time's 1947 Man of the Year) was an international hero who was just as opposed to the creation of Israel just as forcefully as Truman was for it. After FDR died, Truman became President, had no voter base, and was infinitely less popular than Marshall.

Clark M. Clifford, Special Counsel to the President, remembered the internal Truman administration fight regarding the recognition of the Jewish State and the final discussion in the Oval Office. The meeting turned out to be a fierce battle with Clifford and the President on one side, Marshall and Undersecretary of State Robert Lovett on the other. Undersecretary of State Lovett first argued Truman was supporting Israel solely for political gain, and he warned the President the move would lose more votes than it would gain.

When that didn't work, Lovett tried another approach –**the red scare** (in other words, those Jews are a bunch of commies).

Clark Clifford, who recommended that the President recognize the nascent State recalled the argument:

Mr. President, to recognize the Jewish state prematurely would be buying a pig in a poke. How do we know what kind of Jewish state will be set up? We have many reports from British and American intelligence agents that Soviets are sending Jews and Communist agents into Palestine from the Black Sea area.

### **Marshall Threatens Truman**

When Lovett was done speaking, it was the “hero” Marshall’s turn. Clifford described the remarks:

I had noticed Marshall’s face reddening with suppressed anger as I talked. When I finished, he exploded: “Mr. President, I thought this meeting was called to consider an important and complicated problem in foreign policy. I don’t even know why Clifford is here. He is a domestic adviser, and this is a foreign policy matter.”

I will never forget President Truman’s characteristically simple reply: “Well, General, he’s here because I asked him to be here.”



Marshall, scarcely concealing his ire, shot back, “These considerations have nothing to do with the issue. I fear that the only reason Clifford is here is that he is pressing a political consideration with regard to this issue. I don’t think politics should play any part in this.”

Lovett chirped in by accusing Truman of only trying to get the Jewish vote (a charge that angered Truman to his dying day).

“It would be highly injurious to the United Nations to announce the recognition of the Jewish state even before it had come into existence and while the General Assembly is still considering the question. [At the time the UN was considering changing its mind about the partition plan].”

### **Marshall Piped In With A Political Threat**

He was still furious. Speaking with barely contained rage and more than a hint of self-righteousness, he made the most remarkable threat Clifford says he ever heard anyone make directly to a President:

“If you follow Clifford’s advice and if I were to vote in the election, I would vote against you.”

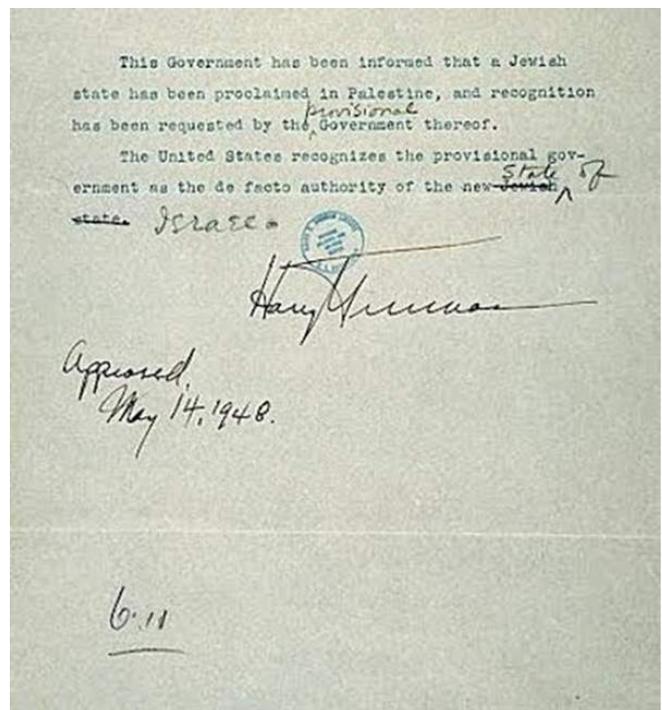
Everyone in the room was stunned. Here was the indispensable symbol of continuity [from FDR] whom President Truman revered and needed, making a threat that, if it became public, could virtually seal the dissolution of the Truman Administration and send the Western Alliance, then in the process of creation, into disarray before it had been fully structured.

Marshall’s statement fell short of an explicit threat to resign, but it came very close. General Marshall’s position was grossly unfair.

### **Israel Is Declared And Truman Acts**

But Truman’s mind was made up – he was going to do the right thing. At 4 p.m. Friday, May 14, 1948, just before the start of the Jewish Sabbath, David Ben Gurion read a 979-word declaration of independence in front of a small audience at the Tel Aviv Art Museum. He finished in his usual terse manner. “The State of Israel is established! The meeting is ended.”

A few hours later, at midnight, British rule over Palestine lapsed –11 minutes later, White House spokesman Charlie Ross announced U.S. recognition.



### **Truman Honored As A Tool of God**

When Israel’s Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak HaLevi Herzog visited the White House after Israel’s independence declaration, he told Truman, “**God put you in your mother’s womb so that you would be the instrument to bring the rebirth of Israel after 2000 years.**”

In 1961 long after he was out of office, Truman met with Israeli PM David Ben Gurion in N.Y. In writing about the meeting, **Ben Gurion explained:**

At our last meeting, after a very interesting talk, just before [the President] left me – it was in a New York hotel suite – I told him that as a foreigner I could not judge what would be his place in American history; but his helpfulness to us, his constant sympathy with our aims in Israel, his courageous decision to recognize our new state so quickly and his steadfast support since then had given him an immortal place in Jewish history.

As I said that, tears suddenly sprang to his eyes. And his eyes were still wet when he bade me goodbye. I had rarely seen anyone so moved. I tried to hold him for a few minutes until he had become more composed, for I recalled that the hotel corridors were full of waiting journalists and photographers. He left.

A little while later, I too had to go out, and a correspondent came to me to ask, “Why was President Truman in tears when he left you?” I believe that I know. These were the tears of a man who had been subjected to calumny and vilification, who had persisted against powerful forces within his own Administration determined to defeat him. These were the tears of a man who had fought ably and honorably for a humanitarian goal to which he was deeply committed. These were tears of thanksgiving that his God had seen fit to bless his labors with success.



Truman was a president who judged not whether things would make America popular in the Arab world. His decision was based on whether it was the right thing for the U.S. The man from Independence, Missouri knew the best thing for America’s future was to grab the moral leadership position of the entire world.

### **An Important Partnership For Both Countries**

Beyond morality, Truman’s recognition was the right move for America.

While the U.S. has provided Israel with vital economic and military support, what most people don’t understand is that it is a two-way street.

Israel has contributed to American security through counterterrorism training, intelligence sharing, and military innovations as unmanned aerial vehicles and missile defense. Israel has also shared with Americans advances in the high-tech, medical sectors that have helped maintain American economic competitiveness and communications. Israel's breakthroughs in irrigation technology have helped American farmers to feed the world. There is so much more—but that is a different article.

Thankfully, as part of the miracle of the reestablishment of the Jewish State after two-thousand years, God put Harry Truman in the White House to recognize Israel.

Israel's National Anthem, Hatikvah, which means, The Hope. The creation of the Jewish State of Israel seventy-five years ago was the culmination of two thousand years of hope and prayers by the Jewish people. And it's also proof that God still does miracles.

On this President's Day, we should remember that it was an American President, Harry S Truman, who acted as the agent of God to ensure that the miracle happens.

# Eisenhower: The Man Who Ensured The World Would Never Forget

By Miriam Fischer Director Of Community Outreach, Herut North America



President Eisenhower, the 34<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, presided over America during a time of peace and great prosperity. Between 1950 and 1960, the American economy grew by 37%, and unemployment averaged 4.5%. Personal incomes were 45% higher at the end of the '50s compared to when the decade started. The Eisenhower administration was responsible for several domestic advances for the United States: The founding of NASA, the formation of the Interstate Highway system, the creation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now known as the Department of Health and Humans Services and the Department of Education), as well as signing the first significant civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. President Eisenhower also dealt with an ever-changing world post World War II. He used the nuclear threat to end the Korean War. He dealt with an escalating cold war as well as the crushing of the Hungarian Revolution by the Soviet Union. However, his relations with Israel and the Jewish people had always been tenuous as president.

Before he became president of the United States, Eisenhower was a 5-star General and the Supreme Allied Commander of the Allied Expeditionary forces. He was instrumental in the defeat of the Axis forces in both North Africa as well as in Europe. He was seen by many as a liberator of the thousands of Jews who were still in the Concentration and Forced Labor camps.

On April 12, 1945, General Eisenhower met Generals Bradley and Patton at Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. Afterward, Eisenhower also ordered every American soldier in the area who was not on the front lines to visit Ohrdruf and Buchenwald. He wanted them to see for themselves what they were fighting against.

He ordered that every citizen of the town of Gotha (near Ohrdruf ) personally tour the camp, and after having done so, the mayor and his wife went home and hanged themselves. Later on, Ike wrote to Mamie, "I never dreamed that such cruelty, bestiality, and savagery could really exist in this world."

Eisenhower understood that many people would be unable to comprehend the full scope of this barbarism. He also understood that any human deeds that were so utterly evil might eventually be challenged or even denied as literally unbelievable or call it a lie created by the Jewish people. For these reasons, he ordered that all the civilian news media and military combat camera units be required to visit the camps and record their observations in print, pictures, and film.

Due to his actions, these atrocities were not only recorded and made public via newsreels that played before feature films, but they also served as evidence used against the Nazis and their collaborators during the Nuremberg trials (1945-46), and, most importantly, they ensured that future generations would never be able to deny the Shoah.

Some of General Eisenhower's actions before the liberation were questionable, and uncertain if they caused many more Jewish deaths.

Eisenhower attempted to minimize the extent that Jews were the main target of the Nazis before the end of the war. In 1944, at the behest of Congress, The Treasury Department, and the Jewish community, the Roosevelt administration created the War Refugee Board, whose primary purpose was to save Jews in Europe, despite the minimal funding from the White House. In September of 1944, they created a leaflet in which U.S. planes were to drop over Europe. The leaflet urged the citizens to refrain from collaborating with the Nazis in their crimes against the Jewish people. However, General Eisenhower removed the mention of the Jews. Thus, the leaflet urged Europeans not to "molest, harm or persecute" any of the "great many men" being held by the German authorities. "no matter what their religion or nationality may be."

Did he do so because he wanted to diminish the Jews, or did he do so trying to get the German people on the side of the Allies since many had unflattering opinions of Jews in general, or was it a back door order of President Roosevelt who may have been the most anti-Semitic president in American History?

Immediately after the war, when many who survived the atrocities of the Nazis were placed in Displaced Person camps, President Truman ordered General Eisenhower to visit and inspect the Jewish D.P. camps. Truman had received the scathing Harrison report, one that was commissioned by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In the report, it was emphasized Jews were not treated any better under the Allies than they were under the Nazis, with the only difference being "we did not exterminate them." After his inspection, Eisenhower ordered the creation of Jewish-only centers to alleviate overcrowding and to keep families together. He upped their caloric intake, provided more fresh vegetables and meat to increase their nutritional needs, and appointed Rabbi Judah Nadich as the first Advisor on Jewish Affairs to the Commander of the U.S. Forces in Europe.

After he was elected President of the United States, one of President Eisenhower's most significant foreign policy challenges was that of Egypt and the Suez Canal Crisis. This began in 1955 when the new Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser wanted to build a dam on the Nile to generate electricity, control flooding, and irrigate the land. The U.S. and Britain assisted with funding to counter a possible Soviet influence in the region and divert part of Egypt's resources away from military spending that could have been used against Israel. However, due to lobbying from cotton-producing states that did not want to compete with Egyptian-based cotton, Congress and pro-Israel groups opposition and because they went to Soviet bloc countries for military aid, Eisenhower stopped the funding.

In July of 1956, Egypt decided to nationalize the Suez Canal, which was run by Great Britain and France, to respond to the U.S. decision. There were months of negotiations between Britain, France, and Egypt, with the U.S. acting as a broker. At the same time, Egypt began forming close ties with Russia while having various skirmishes with Israel, which was working in collaboration with France and Britain. The three countries were planning military operations to invade the Sinai desert. The U.S. favored Egypt since it wanted to create ties and have a foothold in the region over the Soviet Union, when it should not have, since Egypt had already decided to align itself with the Soviet Union before the crisis occurred.

On October 29, Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula, and when the situation was brought to the U.N. for a ceasefire, France and Britain vetoed the ceasefire. Less than a week later, Britain and France each dedicated troops to the short-lived invasion. President Eisenhower and his secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, both anti-communists, were prepared to crack down on Israel for the invasion. They were willing to suspend government funding to Israel and private funding, a move they did not do to punish the

instigators, Britain and France. The Eisenhower administration was willing to sacrifice European and a Middle East ally to appease a country that stabbed the United States in the back. Many Congressional leaders wondered why the administration acted by coming to the aid of Egypt over Israel but did not come to the aid of Hungary.

Eisenhower had a mixed record with the Jewish Nation and the Jewish State. Still, perhaps his most significant contribution was made before he came to the White House because it wasn't for General Eisenhower, "never forget" would have been forgotten.

# John F. Kennedy and Israel, When Admiration Turns to Suspicion

By Sandra Kessler



Although John F. Kennedy (JFK) was my first "real" president, there was a great deal about what was going on in the world that did not make it to my T.V. or the newspapers we read. The Civil Rights Movement was front and center on our T.V. I watched what was happening to Martin Luther King and his supporters as they were hosed down and beset with attack dogs while just trying to vote. I was less aware of the true nature of the Cuban Missile Crisis, but I do remember watching Khrushchev beat his shoe on the table at the U.N. I did not hear about what was happening with Israel at the time. As far as we knew in Jewish Brooklyn, Israel was not at war, and while we knew there was always tension with the surrounding

Arabs, we figured everything was okay for now. We assumed America supported Israel just like all Jews did. Little did we know!

Delving into JFK's pre-White House speeches on Israel delivered to Jewish and general audiences, I saw a man from a staunch Irish American Catholic family who spoke of Israel reverently and with evangelical fervor. The language in his public statements was impressive, laudatory, and seemingly heartfelt.

One of his critical presidential priorities, nuclear nonproliferation, clashed with Israel's "secret" nuclear reactor development at Dimona. That led to serious tension between Kennedy and Prime Minister Ben Gurion. Bilateral relations became increasingly brittle throughout JFK's brief presidency.

After JFK was assassinated in November 1963. The new President, Lyndon Johnson, changed the course with his own priorities. Although he, too, worried about nuclear nonproliferation, the problem of Israel's nuclear ambitions was put on the back burner, and eventually, the public worrying over Israel at the POTUS level petered out.

Early in his political career, Kennedy exuded steadfast support for Israel. He consistently praised and extolled the new Jewish State in his pre-presidential speeches.

For example, in a speech delivered in June 1947, Kennedy praised the U.N. Partition Plan as a "just solution in [the middle east] requires the establishment of a free and democratic commonwealth in Palestine, the opening of the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration and the removal of land restrictions, so that members of the people of Israel who desire to do so, may work out their own destiny, under their chosen leaders, in the land of Israel."

According to Steven C. Davidson, an attorney, and professor of criminal justice at George Mason University, JFK's words meant "the establishment and success of the Jewish state was not only the right thing to happen, but it was also supposed to happen."

In 1956, on the 8th anniversary of the State of Israel at a celebration held at Yankee Stadium, JFK, then a senator, was effusive in his praise and admiration for the Jewish State, even making reference to his first visit as a young man to the British Mandate for Palestine. He praised Israel for all it had already accomplished as a singular example of "man's eternal quest for freedom."

He noted that "I join in this salute today because of my own deep admiration for Israel and her people - an admiration based not on hearsay, not on assumption, but on my own personal experience. For I went to Palestine in 1939, and I saw there an unhappy land." He continued:

"But 12 years later, in 1951, I traveled again to the land by the River Jordan - this time as a Member of the Congress of the United States - and this time to see first-hand the new State of Israel. The transformation which had taken place could not have been more complete. For between the time of my visit in 1939 and my visit in 1951, a nation had been reborn - a desert had been reclaimed - and a national integrity had been redeemed after 2,000 years of seemingly endless waiting."

He concluded by predicting that even as he was there to celebrate Israel's 8th birthday, he could say "without hesitation that she will live to see an 80th birthday - and an eight hundredth. For peace is all Israel asks, no more - a peace that will "beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning-hooks"; a peace that will enable the desert to "rejoice and blossom as the rose," "when the wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest."

Just two years later, in May 1958, JFK made similar effusive remarks at a 10th-anniversary celebration of Israel's founding in Washington, DC. He hailed Israel as "strongly nationalistic" and "strongly universalistic." He noted, "Israel has of necessity remained well armed and alert against its neighbors."

He praised how Israel engaged all of its people in not just the defense of but in the nation's building: "Every man and woman owes service to the State, and the training is very intensive. Yet this training is often combined with work on the land, taming the desert, irrigating the rocky soil, building roads, and aiding in village development and construction. The army is a great force for unifying and educating the people."

JFK used this opportunity to castigate the critics of Israel. Presumably directed at both the Arab world. He noted the "Basic rivalries and pressures within the Arab world, the quarrels over boundaries, the tensions involved in lifting their economies from stagnation, the cross-pressures of nationalism – all of these factors would still be there, even if there were no Israel."

Soon after JFK received the Democratic nomination, he addressed the National Convention of the Zionist Organization of America, delivering a powerful campaign speech. JFK reiterated his strong allegiance to Israel as an essential U.S. ally. Kennedy rebuked Eisenhower for destroying what should have been a victory for Israel and its allies in "the Suez Crisis." The scolding of Eisenhower's Suez actions was designed to drive American Jews away from his opponent V.P. Richard Nixon.

JFK added that the U.S. had a "moral obligation" to ensure the U.S. and the U.N. live up to their pledge of free transit through the canal for Israel. Kennedy's language of support for Israel was firm and decisive. But when he articulated his intended Presidential policies after this speech, he said, "I propose that an international effort be made to limit an arms race in the Middle East with a realization that if this is not

accomplished, we shall not permit an imbalance to exist which threatens the right of any country to self-defense."

His promise that "we shall not permit an imbalance" in the arms capabilities would shortly lead to his conflict with Israel over Dimona.

The conflict over Dimona has been recently chronicled in detail by Avner Cohen and William Burr of The Wilson Center in a series of papers. The JFK Library Archives contain a plethora of communique, meeting notes, and telegrams that provide insights into the attitudes of both JFK and Ben Gurion and Levi Eshkol. Much of it was a patchwork of behind-the-scenes speculations about who said what and when. However, the general narrative shows an intellectual tennis match in which neither side scores. The "players" were lobbing the ball across the net at one another. It seemed interminable.

The Dimona Nuclear Reactor being constructed by Israel raised concerns that it would be used to refine plutonium to produce nuclear weapons, precisely the "imbalance" in arms Kennedy pledged to not allow. According to Cohen and Burr, "(m)ore than any other country, it was Israel which most impressed upon President Kennedy the complexity of nuclear proliferation. Israel was the first case he had to struggle with as President.

In May 1961, Kennedy met with Ben Gurion in Manhattan to discuss the U.S. and Israel's bilateral relationship and Middle East issues. The first point of discussion was the Israeli nuclear program. Cohen and Burr note that an accurate depiction of their discussion is elusive. Draft memos contained contradictory statements. JFK, more than any other American president, was personally engaged with the problem of Israel's nuclear program. As a result, he became increasingly irritated with Ben Gurion's evasions about if the reactor would be put to military use. At least one person at the meeting claimed that he heard Ben Gurion allude to possible military use in "the future." But this was not included in the official summary of the meeting.

The back and forth of American demanding to be allowed to inspect the Dimona reactor site and Israel's evasions, misdirection's, and postponements continued through to 1963, along with a continuous exchange of diplomatic meetings and correspondence between both nations. According to Cohen and Burr, Kennedy's irritation with Israel grew so intense that in 1963 JFK issued a sharp warning to Israeli leaders that U.S. "commitment and support" could be "seriously jeopardized" absent inspection of the Dimona Reactor.

Cohen and Burr recount how on April 17, 1963, Egypt, Syria, and Iraq signed the Arab Federation Proclamation, calling for a military union to bring about "the liberation of Palestine." They note that

although such rhetoric was not new, Ben-Gurion used it to start an exchange with President Kennedy about Israel's overall security predicament while evading Kennedy's specific Dimona request. "Whether Ben-Gurion genuinely saw the Arab Federation Proclamation as an existential threat to Israel is unclear," the authors suggest, "but it tacitly justified Israel's efforts to create a last resort option without the outright rejection of Kennedy's request.

Eventually, Israel agreed to inspections, the first after JFK's assassination and Johnson's sworn in as president in early 1964. Although they agreed to two inspections per annum, under Johnson, this was reduced to only one, and a total of six inspections took place between 1964 and 1969 until Nixon ended them.

In 1969 U.S. President Richard Nixon, in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, pressed Israel to "make no visible introduction of nuclear weapons or undertake a nuclear test program." Meir agreed that Israel would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into a conflict. At the same time, it maintained a policy of nuclear ambiguity.

In 1963 Kennedy's assassination was one of those pivotal points in American history that amplified the uncertainty of ongoing national and international power struggles. Had Kennedy lived to complete his term and possibly serve another, it is anyone's guess in what direction his relationship with Israel would have gone. Others were left to take the reins of American leadership and try to deal with the growing number of domestic and geopolitical crises their way, for good or for ill.

# President Lyndon Johnson and his connection to the Jewish people

By Mordechai Snow



The prophet Zachariah says,

“ונחל ה' את יהודה חלקו על אדמת הקודש ובחר עוד בירשלים.”

Loosely translated, G-d will cause Judah to re-inherit its portion of the Holy Land and G-d will again select Jerusalem as his personal selection.

In 1967, we witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy in the Six Day War when we returned to all of Judea and Samaria with lightning speed. Indeed, in many instances, the enemy ran away when there was no apparently logical reason for this.

Zachariah continues,

“הס כל בשר מפני ה' כי נעור ממעון קדשו.”

Loosely translated, the prophet foresees that when this happens all of humanity will be stunned to silence because G-d has arisen from his holy dwelling.

Indeed, over the subsequent thirty years, there was a tremendous decline in Antisemitism internationally. As Lord Jonathan Sacks, formerly Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain writes that in his first year at university in the UK – immediately preceding the Six Day War, not a single Jewish student wore a Kippah on campus. In his next year – after the Six Day War, Jewish students started to wear kipot publicly on the University campus. A significant amount of Antisemitism had been stilled.

Why do I write all this in an article that purports to show the connection of President Lyndon Johnson to the Jewish people? Well, for better or for worse, we know that Israel was not prepared to get into the Six Day War without a greenlight from the USA. Despite being threatened by annihilation by President Nassar of Egypt and a host of other Arab countries, Israel waited for this green light. And President Johnson gave it. President Johnson understood the potentially critical situation that Israel – surrounded by hostile neighbors with supposedly much bigger and more powerful armies – put Israel in and he understood the need for Israel to rescue itself. Thus, the start of the Six Day War was greenlighted.

But President Johnson did not stop here. He did more. Before the Six Day War, the United States was not selling or giving weapons to Israel. Yet imagine our surprise when the Shabbat before the Six Day War started, we walked into Shul and a young healthy regular was not there. Nobody knew what happened to him or where he could be. Well, the next Shabbat he was there. We asked him where he had been. He said he was packing gas masks for West Germany because in the strange world of international politics, West Germany agreed to give Israel its stock of gas-masks in exchange for a restocking by the United States. Of course the United States was allowed to give West Germany gas masks so Jewish volunteers helped in this effort so that West Germany would give its gas masks to Israel so that Israel could be prepared in the event of an enemy gas attack. All this was authorized by President Johnson. Thank you, President Johnson!

But Mr. Johnson's accomplishments go well beyond this. Besides for him starting to give and sell weapons to Israel after the War, back in WWII he proved what a friend of the Jews he was as well. We are all familiar with the blind eye turned by the world to the plight of the Jewish people in WWII. But not by Lyndon Johnson. Although he was only a congressman back then, he hid close to five hundred Jews on his ranch in Texas at great personal peril. For example, he could have been thrown out of congress if he had been caught harboring illegal immigrants in this fashion. But when there was a need to help the

Jews, Lyndon Johnson was there. As the Talmud teaches us, he who saves one life is as if he saved an entire world. Thank you, President Johnson, for saving five hundred entire worlds!

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# **Nixon – The President Who Took the Biggest Risk for Israel**

**Joshua Goldstein Chairman Herut North America**



Nixon stands out among presidents for taking the boldest risk for Israel: a much-needed arms airlift during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. An astonishing 567 missions by American aircraft (not to mention deliveries by sea and El Al flights) kept Israel fighting. Nixon ignored the counsel of his closest adviser, Henry Kissinger, who wanted to allow the war to play out for a while longer to give Egyptian President Anwar Sadat the political cover he needed to make peace in its aftermath. The stakes were too high for Israel to play with timing, Nixon told Kissinger.

Richard Nixon was the president who took the boldest risk for Israel by airlifting critical arms during the 1973 Yom Kippur war. 567 air missions were flown by American Aircraft which were vitally needed. Israel simply did not have enough arms to hold off the attack from all fronts. Since Israel was taken by

surprise it had not enough time to prepare and was scrambling to put up a defense against the invading armies on all fronts.

Henry Kissinger, Nixon's secretary of state, wanted Nixon to keep a low profile in the war so as not to anger Arab sentiment and aggravate tense Soviet American Cold War sentiments.

Operation Nickel Grass was the name of the operation of the strategic airlift operation conducted by the US to deliver weapons and supplies to Israel during the 1973 war. Over 32 days the US Air force and Military Airlift Command (MAC) shipped 22,325 tons of tanks, artillery, ammunition and supplies via C-141 Star lifer and C-5 Galaxy transport aircraft. This occurred between October 14<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> of 1973. The US support helped ensure that the State of Israel Survived a coordinated and surprise attack from the Soviet backed Arab Republic of Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic.

Boyne, in his book, *"The Two O'clock War"*, described a high-level White House meeting on October 9<sup>1</sup>:

*As preoccupied as he was with Watergate, Nixon came straight to the point, announcing that Israel must not lose the war. He ordered that the deliveries of supplies, including aircraft, be sped up and that Israel be told that it could freely expend all of its consumables — ammunition, spare parts, fuel, and so forth — in the certain knowledge that these would be completely replenished by the United States without any delay.*

White House Chief of Staff Alexander Haig concurred:

*As soon as the scope and pattern of Israeli battle losses emerged, Nixon ordered that all destroyed equipment be made up out of U.S. stockpiles, using the very best weapons America possessed. . . . Whatever it takes, he told Kissinger . . . save Israel.*

*"It was Nixon who did it," recalled Nixon's acting special counsel, Leonard Garment. "I was there. As [bureaucratic bickering between the State and Defense departments] was going back and forth, Nixon said, this is insane. . . . He just ordered Kissinger, "Get your ass out of here and tell those people to move."*

*When Schlesinger initially wanted to send just three transports to Israel because he feared anything more would alarm the Arabs and the Soviets, Nixon snapped: "We are going to get blamed just as much for three as for 300. . . . Get them in the air, now."*

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<sup>1</sup> *The Two O'clock War: The 1973 Yom Kippur Conflict and the Airlift That Saved Israel*, Boyne, Walter J, Thomas Dunne Books, 2002

Haig, in his memoir, *Inner Circles*<sup>2</sup>, wrote:

*That Nixon, frustrated with the initial delays in implementing the airlift and aware that the Soviets had begun airlifting supplies to Egypt and Syria, summoned Kissinger and Schlesinger to the Oval Office on October 12 and “banished all excuses.”*

*The president asked Kissinger for a precise accounting of Israel’s military needs, and Kissinger proceeded to read aloud from an itemized list.*

*“Double it,” Nixon ordered. “Now get the hell out of here and get the job done.”*

*Later, informed of yet another delay — this one because of disagreements in the Pentagon over the type of planes to be used for the airlift — an incensed Nixon shouted at Kissinger, “[Expletive] it, use everyone we have. Tell them to send everything that can fly.”*

Nixon acted despite threats of reprisal by Arab oil producers — indeed, the day after Nixon asked Congress for an emergency appropriation of \$2.2 billion for Israel, Saudi Arabia’s King Faisal announced an embargo of oil to the U.S. - not to mention Europe’s overwhelming opposition to aiding Israel.

But Mordechai Gazit, who at the time of the Yom Kippur War was director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister’s Office, told authors Gerald Strober and Deborah Hart Strober in *Nixon: An Oral History of His Presidency*<sup>3</sup>.

*“The airlift was decided not because we asked for it. Our relations with the United States were not at a point where we could have asked for an airlift; this was beyond our imagination”.*

As for Meir herself, to the end of her life she referred to Nixon as "my president" and told a group of Jewish leaders in Washington shortly after the war: “For generations to come, all will be told of the miracle of the immense planes from the United States bringing in the materiel that meant life to our people.”

Wrote Nixon biographer Stephen E. Ambrose:

*Those were momentous events in world history. Had Nixon not acted so decisively, who can say what would have happened? The Arabs probably would have recovered at least some of the territory they had lost in 1967, perhaps all of it. They might have even destroyed Israel. But whatever the might-have-beens,*

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<sup>2</sup> *Inner Circles: How America Changed the World: A Memoir*, Haig, Alexander Meigs, Grand Central Pub, 1992.

<sup>3</sup> *Nixon: An Oral History of His Presidency*, Strober, Gerald S, and Strober, Deborah, Harper Collins, 1992.

*there is no doubt that Nixon . . . made it possible for Israel to win, at some risk to his own reputation and a great risk to the American economy.*

*He knew that his enemies . . . would never give him credit for saving Israel. He did it anyway.*

# Gerald R. Ford- Fighter For Soviet Jewry

By Steven Kruh



Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon as president after the latter's resignation during the Watergate Scandal in mid-Summer 1974, less than a year after having replaced a likewise scandal-ridden Spiro Agnew as Vice President. Although he occupied the Oval Office for fewer than a thousand days and remains a historic anomaly in not having been elected to either of the two highest executive positions in which he served, Ford's impact on US-Israel relations and on World Jewry were of great significance—all taking place under the shadow of the Cold War (and potential nuclear) confrontation with the Soviet Union.

The movement to liberate Soviet Jewry scored two critical political and diplomatic victories during Ford's tenure. He was the right chief executive for both advances as an early supporter of the movement to free Soviet Jews: he was Republican minority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1971 when he spoke at a New York City rally in Madison Square Gardens for the rights of Refuseniks. The first major success was the passage in late-1974 of the Scoop Jackson-sponsored Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which denied Most Favored Nation trading status to countries with restrictive emigration policies and assuring

“the continued dedication of the United States to fundamental human rights”. It was followed by the signing of the Helsinki Declaration in 1975, requiring the Soviet Union to respect those human rights, including fundamental freedoms of religion, thought and conscience.

“His administration’s signing of the Helsinki accords, which established a clear link between international relations and human rights, was the most important step in the struggle to win the Cold War,” former Refusnik and Israeli politician Natan Sharansky said upon Ford’s death in 2006.

Only a month into his presidency, Gerald Ford welcomed Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin to the White House and spoke of an anticipated visit to Jerusalem. In his remarks of September 10, 1974, he spoke of his administration’s commitment to strengthening relations between the two countries and as partners is creating a lasting and durable peace in the Middle East. He said:

"The United States ... has been proud of its association with the State of Israel. We shall continue to stand with Israel. We are committed to Israel's survival and security. The United States for a quarter of a century has had an excellent relationship with the State of Israel. We have cooperated in many, many fields -- in your security, in the well-being of the Middle East, and in leading what we all hope is a lasting peace throughout the world." --

By March of 1975, with President Ford secure at the helm, he and Secretary Kissinger had grown frustrated by what they saw as Israeli intransigence in talks with their southern neighbor on further withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for promised security. They demanded that Yitzhak Rabin, who had succeeded Golda Meir Israel’s prime minister, return areas of the captured Sinai which had valuable oil assets and others of key military value. In late-March 1975, Kissinger said that the Ford administration was “reassessing” general U.S. policy in the Middle East, including its military and economic assistance to Israel.

For six months between March and September 1975, described by President Ford as an American-Israeli "war of nerves" or "test of wills", the United States refused to conclude any new weapons agreements with Israel and Prime Minister Rabin noted it “heralded one of the worst periods in American-Israeli relations.” The Administration’s “reassessment” generated grave concern in the American Jewish community and among Israel's supporters in Congress. On May 21, President Ford was “shocked” when he could not overcome congressional pressure to relent, as pro-Israel forces gathered 76 signatures on a Senate letter to the President, pressuring him “to be responsive to Israel’s urgent military and economic needs.”

Earlier he had acknowledged the cooling of relations between the countries over matters pertaining to Israel's strong reluctance to cede captured Sinai territory to the Egyptians, something supported by the Soviets, as well.

“I wish to express my profound disappointment over Israel's attitude in the course of the negotiations [with Egypt] ... Failure of the negotiation will have a far-reaching impact on the region and on our relations. I have given instructions for a reassessment of United States policy in the region, including our relations with Israel, with the aim of ensuring that overall American interests ... are protected. You will be notified of our decision.”---Ford cabled to Rabin, early March, 1975

Subsequently, after serious meetings initiated by Ford and Kissinger beginning in the Spring of 1975, a second Sinai Agreement was reached between Israel and Egypt. The arrangement reaffirmed and strengthened the 1973 ceasefire, enhanced the buffer zone and committed both countries to settle their differences by non-aggressive means, forbidding blockades and troop movements in the area. The Suez Canal was opened to Israel for non-military shipping for the first time in years.

The agreement was the first between Israel and an Arab country that was not exclusively to end fighting or disengage military forces. President Ford followed by submitting foreign aid requests to Congress that included increased military and economic assistance for Israel and assurances of commitment to the country's security, as well as for moderate nations in the Arab world supportive of the peace initiatives.

Syria was not to be part of such realignment, as it maintained (and to this day) its bellicose posture towards Israel. Acknowledging this at the time, Ford wrote to PM Rabin on September 1, 1975, that the “U.S. will support the position that an overall settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace agreement must assure Israel's security from attack from the Golan Heights. The U.S. further supports the position that a just and lasting peace, which remains our objective, must be acceptable to both sides. The U.S. has not developed a final position on the borders. Should it do so it will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining on the Golan Heights.”

The continued Syria challenge notwithstanding, the Yom Kippur War and the subsequent stability and peace negotiation efforts, led by President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, altered the status quo in the Middle East.

An additional challenge was the United Nations “Zionism is Racism” General Assembly Resolution 3379 of late-1975. Advanced by the Arab-Muslim majority countries, with support of Soviet bloc and the non-aligned African nations, it was passed on November 10, 1975, approximately one year after the Palestine Liberation Organization was granted observer status at the UN.

During the debate, Daniel Patrick Moynihan the US Ambassador to the UN ignored the objections of his boss Henry Kissinger and made what some believe is the best speech ever made by an American at the UN. He spoke about how the Jewish people are not a race, they are composed of people from all races and gave the history of Zionism and how the concept is supported by the scriptures of other faiths. As Zionism is a movement composed mostly of Jews, a faith that incorporates people of all races Zionism cannot be racism. His speech concluded strongly, “The United States of America declares that it does not acknowledge, it will not abide by it, will never acquiesce in this infamous act.”

President Ford gave full support to Moynihan’s words in a press conference, “[T]his Administration is very, very much opposed to the resolution... We are doing all we possibly can in the United Nations to defeat the resolution. We think it is contrary to the basic Charter of the United Nations.” Despite the passage of the resolution (it was repealed in 1991), Ford remained steadfast, and gave no heed to the anti-Zionist forces within the UN.

Shortly before the conclusion of his term as president, he reaffirmed his vision of America’s role in securing Israel’s freedom and prosperity: “America remains the real hope for freedom throughout the world. We will remain the ultimate guarantor of Israel’s freedom. If we falter, there is no one to pick up the torch. If we withdraw ourselves, those who rely on the United States, those who gain their strength from us, are lost.”

# Jimmy Carter And Israel, Peacemaker or Anti-Semite?

By David Hopper



Jimmy Carter served as President of the United States from 1977 to 1981. His Presidency is looked at as being one that did not accomplish much. While in office, he contended with a failing economy, the Iran hostage crisis, and the domestic energy crisis, and overall did not have a good relationship with Congress.

One area where he was given credit was in helping to broker a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

When a peace agreement between the two nations failed to be reached during the 1973 Geneva conference, it was thought that a definitive peace agreement could not be reached.

After becoming President in 1977, Carter began pushing a new Geneva Peace Process" which included all of the Arab Nations. But Egypt's President Sadat felt that the Geneva process was all show and couldn't see a way to form a united negotiating bloc with his Arab (mainly Syria, Libya, and Iraq) allies.

So, Sadat took the initiative, and on November 9, 1977, he delivered a speech in Egypt that stunned the world. He said he would travel anywhere, "even Jerusalem," to discuss peace.

Begin answered with a declaration that if Israel thought Sadat would accept an invitation, Israel would invite him.

Secret talks in Morocco between Israel's foreign minister Moshe Dayan and Sadat's representative, Hassan Tuhami, paved the way for Sadat's initiative. But no one let Carter know because neither country wanted his Geneva plan.

Once a meeting was set, Jimmy Carter almost destroyed what is now considered his most outstanding achievement. Carter wanted his Geneva talks. He didn't care that the peace process already begun by Sadat and Begin might lead to peace. Carter wanted his Geneva plan or nothing.

Even before the talks began, Sadat suggested secretly placing a diplomat from Israel posing as an American in the U.S. Embassy to handle disputes between the countries. But Carter said no.

Thankfully Carter couldn't stop the approaching peace train. Israeli journalists were allowed into Cairo within days, breaking a symbolic barrier. And from there, the peace process quickly gained momentum. And negotiations were scheduled for the Presidential retreat at Camp David.

The negotiations resulted in Egypt recognizing Israel and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai it had occupied since the Six-Day War. It also formally ended the state of war between Egypt and Israel.

During the negotiations, Carter pressed Menachem Begin to remove Israel from Gaza, Judea, and Samaria. President Carter was concerned with the Palestinian people's plight and Israel's continued settlement of these areas. He did not show the same concern about Palestinian terrorists attacking Israeli civilians.

During his Presidency, Carter was known to be out of touch where foreign policy was concerned. He stated he had fond memories of Fidel Castro. He was a fan of North Korean Dictator Kim II Sung, calling him vigorous, intelligent, and in charge of his country. He stated that Yugoslavian President Tito was a man that believed in human rights.

After the Camp David Accords gave Carter accolades, the President and his administration began making statements criticizing Israel and Begin for building new communities, threatening anti-Israel votes at the

U.N., blaming the inability to expand Camp David on Israel, and more. All of it served to destroy his support from the American Jewish Community.

When he ran for President in 1976, Carter received 71% of the Jewish vote. For his reelection in 1980, he received only 45%. Carter believed one of the chief reasons he lost was "the Israel Lobby's" influence on American Jews.

After he left the White House, Carter took his revenge. He wrote a book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," where he claimed religious forces in the U.S. and Israel backed by powerful political and economic forces allowed for policy decisions made in favor of Israel that were never questioned.

During an appearance on The Today Show, Carter stated, "Israel the apartheid state, cannot be trusted. The party that can be trusted is Hamas!"

Knowing what Gaza is like today, where the people live in poverty, one has to ask, why would Carter support the same fate for Judea and Samaria?

President Carter has had a history of taking money from Arab sources. He accepted funds from Saudi Arabia that was said to have saved his peanut plantation from failing. He also accepted money from the BCCI bank, which is no longer in business. Carter also made appearances for money on behalf of the Zayed Centre for Coordination Follow-Up, an anti-Semitic think tank that calls Jews the enemy of all nations.

According to former Ambassador Marc Ginsburg, Carter went out of his way to make Israel look bad because he felt that American Jews did not support him enough for all that he did for Israel. "I think there's no doubt — particularly given the vantage point I had in the White House at the end of his administration — that he resents the way in which Israel and the American-Jewish community have failed to express sufficient gratitude for his efforts on behalf of peace in the Middle East. In my judgment, there's no other explanation," Ginsberg said.

William Bradford Smith, Chair of the Division of History, Politics & International Studies at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, once sent a letter to the Jewish Exponent in Philadelphia, which said in part: "Carter's hatred of Israel and, by extension, of all Jews (and make no mistake, if you spend any time in the man's presence, his discomfort at being in the same room with someone who merely appears to be Jewish is palpable), is rooted in the man's megalomania, and his unflinching belief in his own rectitude."

Ironically, when Jimmy Carter was diagnosed with cancer that spread to his brain and liver, Keytruda, a new cancer drug researched and tested at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, helped Carter overcome his life-threatening case of melanoma.



# Ronald Reagan: The Gipper and Israel

By Jeff Dunetz, Director of Special Projects, Herut North America



As I was collecting data about Ronald Reagan and his public and private attitude toward the Jewish State, frankly, I got confused. The more I read, the more confused I got. Reagan was a friend of Israel, but his foreign policy team lambasted Israel publicly constantly.

Reagan's strong attachment to Israel was both personal and political. The personal originated with his Evangelist faith which preaches a strong relationship with Israel and the Jewish nation.

A significant part of his foreign policy was winning the cold war. Reagan called the Soviet Union and its allies the "evil empire." Israel was on the side of democracy and freedom, which earned the political respect of the President.

Reagan's policy on Israel was mixed despite his respect and admiration for the Jewish State. He wasn't afraid to use America's leverage to hold Israel to task while simultaneously he entered into many mutual agreements and cooperative tasks with the Jewish State.

During his presidency, Reagan supported many U.N. Resolutions condemning Israel. These included condemning Israel for the bombing of Lebanon, Tunisia, and Iraq.

Israeli Prime Minister Begin ordered the Iraq bombing to destroy Iraq's nuclear program. Like Iran today, Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein promised the world the peaceful intentions of its nuclear program. After the bombing, Reagan supported separate U.N. resolutions in the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly, rebuking Israel for the bombing.

Ironically, if Israel hadn't acted against Iraq's nuclear program in 1981 when the U.S. invaded Iraq ten years later to save Kuwait, Saddam Hussein would have already had nuclear weapons.

Along with the U.N. action, after the bombing, the President suspended the delivery of advanced F-16 fighter jets to Israel to punish Israel for the Iraq bombing.

Unrelated to the bombing, he approved the sale of advanced reconnaissance aircraft (AWACS ) to Saudi Arabia, which Israel fought because it was a danger to its existence. During the Lebanon War, Reagan restricted aid and military assistance to Israel to force a withdrawal of troops from Beirut and central Lebanon.

He also gave Yasser Arafat and the PLO leadership protection from Israel, allowing them to go into exile in Tunis. In December 1988, Reagan authorized the State Department to enter into a dialogue with the PLO, reversing the U.S. policy of refusing to recognize the terrorist organization.

On the positive side, the "Gipper" ordered the CIA to help rescue 500 Ethiopian Jews in the now-famous Operation Joshua. When Israel's economy was near collapse, and inflation rose as high as 445%, Reagan approved a \$1.5 billion emergency assistance package to Israel and ordered his treasury staff to help formulate an economic stabilization plan. Along with working to free Soviet Jews, Reagan started giving \$3 billion annually in foreign aid (later labeled as grants) to Israel.

In 1985, the U.S. completed its first Free Trade Agreement...it was with the Jewish State. As part of the agreement, President Reagan signed a series of executive orders and memorandums of understanding between U.S. agencies and their Israeli counterparts, promoting cooperation in different areas, including education, space research, and health. Reagan's most significant contribution to the U.S.-Israel relationship was the formalization of strategic cooperation.

The cooperation initiative also advanced the information exchange between the Pentagon and IDF. That exchange helped the advancement of Israel's military capacities. And while the U.S. did support anti-Israel U.N. resolutions, through his ambassador to the UN, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the U.S. also vetoed more than a dozen other anti-Israel resolutions. Reagan also helped to free Soviet Jews and set up a program where Israel would receive \$3 billion in foreign aid from the U.S. annually (it eventually was labeled as a grant).

It cannot be denied, however, that Reagan and Begin did not build a strong friendship. They voiced their opinions of each other. After Israel "annexed the Golan Heights" in 1981, Reagan was furious and privately threatened to stop the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel. Begin's answer was to accuse Reagan of treating Israel like a "banana republic."

In 1982, however, Reagan announced that he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state and believed the Palestinians should have self-government in association with Jordan. He also said that Jerusalem should remain undivided.

Having gone through Reagan's ledger vis-a-vis Israel, we can say that even though Reagan projected the feeling that he genuinely appreciated Israel's role in the world and frequently reiterated that Israel and America "will always remain at each other's side," with words and actions, at times, he allowed his anger to judge the Jewish State too harshly.

Reagan's policy on Israel was mixed. But looking at the entire picture, on balance, the Gipper was a friend of the Jewish State.

# George H.W. Bush, Tense Relationship with Israel

By Steven Kruh



During George H. W. Bush's one term as the 41st President of the United States, he constantly had public disputes with Jewish leaders in the U.S. and Israel (H.W. is also known as Bush #41 as his son was known as Bush #43). Many of Bush's disputes with Israel were voiced by his hate-filled Secretary of State James Baker, famous for saying, "F\*\*k the Jews, they won't vote for us anyway." Thanks to the Bush/Baker Israel policies, that statement became true.

In his first presidential run against Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis, Bush received 35% of the Jewish vote. Thanks to his four years of Israeli policies, for his reelection bid against independent Ross Perot and Democrat Bill Clinton, he received only 11% of the Jewish vote. Since then, through today, no other Republican presidential candidate achieved the 35% Bush received during his first election.

In 1971, Richard Nixon appointed Bush as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Five years later, he became director of the CIA. The 1980 primary season, he placed second behind Ronald Reagan. Reagan tried to unify the party by inviting Bush to run as his Vice-presidential candidate.

Before becoming President, Bush strongly advocated for Israel and freeing the Soviet Jews. Bush made Soviet Jewry one of his signature issues and forged close ties with American Jewish groups. He made headlines in 1972 by canceling an appearance on ABC's Dick Cavett Show because he opposed the appearance of another guest, Meir Kahane of the Jewish Defense League. Kahane's radical rejectionism and occasional advocacy of violence had frightened and alienated the Jewish leadership. In appreciation of this and other work at the UN, the Jewish establishment organized a tribute dinner for Bush in 1973 upon his leaving his post.

In March 1990, Bush #41 objected to "new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem." His reference to eastern Jerusalem, suggesting it wasn't part of Israel, created strained feelings between Israel and the U.S.. As a fix, Bush and Israeli Prime minister Shamir spoke on the phone. The latter thanked Bush for the U.S.'s continued support of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union and his opposition to antisemitism in international forums. But it remained a rocky relationship. Bush's alienation from the Jewish community grew primarily because of his views and actions regarding Israel.

James Baker's obstinacy added fuel to the fire. Frustrated by what he considered the Israeli's intransigence in negotiating with the PLO, he remarked that President Bush would be waiting at the White House to hear from the Israelis. At one point, Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee: "Everybody over there [Israel] should know that the telephone number is 1-202-456-1414. When you're serious about peace, call us."

Soon after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, the American Military led a 35-country military coalition in a successful Liberation of Kuwait. To separate the coalition, the Iraqi dictator rained scud missiles upon Israel. Israel yearned to respond, but Bush asked Israel to restrain itself so he could maintain the coalition, which included Arab countries. Shamir complied with Israel's ally's request.

Secretary of State James Baker organized a multilateral Arab-Israeli peace conference in Madrid. It was marked by his tensions with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who felt he would be ganged by all the anti-Israel countries invited to the talks. Shamir was so against the Madrid conference that he instructed foreign minister David Levy to stay home. Instead, he sent deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was against the conference, to lead the delegation.

In 1991 Bush #41 delayed the approval of loan guarantees requested by Israel to help absorb the Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union. Bush opposed the loan guarantees until Israel stopped building Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. After protests by the American Jewish community, Bush backed off and allowed the loan guarantees.

However, during the protests, Bush alienated himself even further from American Jews. During an AIPAC lobbying effort on Capitol Hill supporting the loan guarantees, Bush complained, "I'm one lonely little guy" up against "some powerful political forces" made up of "a thousand lobbyists on the Hill." Jewish leaders saw the statement as supporting the anti-Semitic canard that Jews control the government.

Bush's relations with the Jewish community were more complex than the issue of loan guarantees to Israel. In 1991, America was crucial to the success of Operation Solomon, which brought 14,000 more Ethiopian Jews to Israel. By helping that evacuation, Bush ignored advice from much of his national security team. Also, in 1991, Bush succeeded in reversing the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

September 23, 1991, Bush delivered a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that contained a powerful pro-Israel segment. He said:

"The friendship, the alliance between the United States and Israel, is strong and solid, built upon a foundation of shared democratic values, of shared history and heritage, that sustains the life of our two countries. The emotional bond of our people transcends politics. Our strategic cooperation—and I renew today our determination that that go forward—is a source of mutual security. And the United States' commitment to the security of Israel remains unshakeable. We may differ over some policies from time to time, individual policies, but never over the principle ... For more than 40 years, the United States and Israel have enjoyed a friendship built on mutual respect and commitment to democratic principles. Our continuing search for peace in the Middle East begins with a recognition that the ties uniting our two countries can never be broken ... Zionism is the idea that led to the creation of a home for the Jewish people...And to equate Zionism with the intolerable sin of racism is to twist history and forget the terrible plight of Jews in World War II and indeed throughout history."

Despite the tense relationship with Israel that was a hallmark of Bush's four years in office, at Bush's passing in 2018, PM Benjamin Netanyahu praised the late president for things that a younger Netanyahu vehemently opposed. "We in Israel will always remember his commitment to Israel's security, his decisive victory over Saddam Hussein, his important contribution to the liberation of Soviet Jewry, his support for the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry, as well as his efforts to advance peace in the Middle East in the Madrid Peace Conference.

# Bill Clinton's Non-Stop Peace Attempts

By Steven Kruh



During his eight years as president, Bill Clinton spent much of his time trying to moderate a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Near the end of his time in the White House, Clinton came closer to moderating an Israeli PLO peace than any other President since 1948. Every time peace was close, the PLO displayed its true colors and squashed any possibility of peace.

The 42nd President Bill Clinton came from Hop, Arkansas. He served twice as the State's governor.

Despite hailing from a state with a very small Jewish population, he polled exceedingly well in attracting Jewish voters in the presidential election of 1992, much of it had to do with the anti-Israel policies of the H.W. Bush administration.

His administration included more Jewish Americans in key administration posts than any prior in American history. Both of his successful Supreme Court nominees - Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and many other cabinet-level officials were Jewish. He opened the White House to numerous Jewish events and had a trademark ability to empathize with audiences.

Clinton worked with Israeli governments in his first term led by Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, his Foreign Minister and successor. Clinton felt that Rabin's peace strategy matched his own. But in the end, his peace efforts failed because Arafat's PLO would not give up terrorism.

But Rabin cared the most for Israel's security. He proved it two weeks before he was assassinated when Rabin gave a speech proving he was not the blind peacemaker Clinton thought he was.

In what was called "a triumph of hope over history," Clinton brought Rabin and Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat to Washington on September 13, 1993, to shake hands on the White House lawn in a ceremony for the signing of the Oslo Accords, the first agreement between Israel and the PLO. But by the time of his death, Rabin was considering leaving Oslo because, despite the accords, Arafat was still leading terrorists to kill Israelis.

In 2010 Rabin's daughter Dalia wrote in an Israeli magazine:

“Many people who were close to my father told me that on the eve of the murder, he considered stopping the Oslo process because of the terror that was running rampant in the streets and that Arafat wasn't delivering the goods. Father, after all, wasn't a blind man running forward without thought. I don't rule out the possibility that he considered also doing a reverse on our side.”

From the outset, Clinton took an intense interest in the Middle Eastern peace process and deepened the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel. As he articulated early in his presidency, during a press conference with PM Rabin in March of 1993:

"Israel's democracy is the bedrock on which our relationship stands. It's a shining example for people around the world who are on the frontline of the struggle for democracy in their own lands. Our relationship is also based on our common interest in a more stable and peaceful Middle East, a Middle East that will finally accord Israel the recognition and acceptance that its people have yearned for so long and have been too long denied, a Middle East that will know greater democracy for all its peoples ... I believe strongly in the benefit to American interests from strengthened relationships with Israel. Our talks today have been conducted in that context. We have begun a dialog intended to raise our relationship to a new level of strategic partnership, partners in the pursuit of peace, partners in the pursuit of security."

During his two terms as president, he worked alongside Secretary of State Warren Christopher and four different Israeli prime ministers in advancing that partnership and attempting to mediate peace commitments between Israel, the PLO, and its neighboring Arab countries.

Rabin, Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Ehud Barak were all active partners in his efforts. Following up with Christopher and the signing of the flawed Oslo accords, Clinton sponsored an Israel-Jordan treaty of peace and economic cooperation, signed by Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein in 1994.

In 1998, he hosted PM Netanyahu and the PLO's Arafat at a conference on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The conference was an effort to advance the struggling Oslo process. In the ensuing agreement called the Wye River Memorandum, Israel was called upon to transfer more territory in the 'occupied territories' to the Palestinians; in return, the Palestinians agreed to undertake measures to reduce terrorism. The two parties also agreed to a timetable to negotiate a lasting resolution to the Palestinian demand for full self-determination. But the agreement generated an abrupt outbreak of violence by the Palestinians. The violence brought increased political pressure on Netanyahu from his party. Netanyahu reacted to the violence and the pressure by withdrawing his support for ceding any more territory and imposing new demands upon Arafat, enormously frustrating Clinton.

Netanyahu's government collapsed soon after. Partially because Clinton interfered with the election, sending two of his top campaign advisors to assist Ehud Barak in his challenge to Netanyahu. His efforts succeeded, as Labor's Barak was elected.

Soon after the election, Clinton attempted to bring about a deal on the Golan Heights between Syrian dictator Hafez al-Assad and Barak in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, which failed.

Near the end of his presidency, Clinton came the closest of any U.S. President to mediating peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Near the end of his second term, Clinton organized a Camp David summit between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

With Carter's help, the two parties came to a verbal agreement for an Israel/PLO peace deal that would have ceded to the Palestinians, the majority of their demands. Without warning, Arafat walked away from the deal and the talks at the last minute.

Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East envoy and a key negotiator at the summit, suggested that the failure was Arafat's unwillingness to sign a final deal with Israel that would close the door on any of the Palestinians' maximum demands, particularly the right of return. Ross claimed that what Arafat really wanted was: "A one-state solution. Not independent, adjacent Israeli and Palestinian states, but a single Arab state encompassing all of Historic Palestine". Ross also quoted Saudi Prince Bandar as saying while negotiations were taking place: "If Arafat does not accept what is available now, it won't be a tragedy, it will be a crime."

President Clinton agreed that it was Arafat's fault. In his book, *My Life*, Clinton wrote that Arafat once complimented Clinton by telling him, "You are a great man." But Clinton responded, "I am not a great man. I am a failure, and you made me one."

For Israelis and American Jews alike, he is perhaps best remembered for his dedication to moderate a secure peace for the Jewish State, a peace that has yet to be attained.

# President Bush, the Second Intifada and 9/11

By Yonatan Herzfeld, Assistant Director of World Herut Headquarters



President George W. Bush's relationship with Israel throughout his two terms was dynamic, changing depending on what was going on the ground in Israel, what would benefit him politically and what was in the best interests of America. The second Intifada, - a period of extremely violent and deadly Palestinian uprising against Israel and the terrorist attacks on September 11th commonly referred to as 9/11 both dramatically affected US foreign policy decisions in the Middle East.

The second intifada started in September 2000 when the Palestinian Arabs rioted in response to Ariel Sharon, then opposition leader, entering the Temple Mount, in an expression of Jewish strength. He was intent on showing Israelis that Israel hasn't given up on the temple mount, the holiest place for Jews where the two Jewish temples stood.

Palestinian leadership has historically seized opportunities to escalate violence and cause devastation on the Israeli public. Ariel Sharon going to the temple mount was the perfect excuse for the Palestinians to start an uprising that they could justify internationally. In 2000, 12-year-old Gazan Muhammad al-Dura was allegedly killed by the IDF as he crouched behind his father crying. The video clip was filmed by

France 2 TV, airing around the world with al-Dura becoming a Palestinian hero being used as a rallying cry to intensify the violence against Israelis. At first, before a thorough investigation was conducted, the IDF admitted it had killed al-Dura while later proving through an intensive investigation that the whole scene was staged and not only was al-Dura not killed, he wasn't even hurt. However it was too late, the hoax spread around the world and the Bush administration even used the alleged incident as leverage to pressure Israel to 'calm tensions.' The Intifada lasted until February 2005 with over 1,000 Israelis tragically murdered in bombings, stabbings, shootings, lynchings, rockets and other methods.

Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister of Israel in 2001 and went to America for an official state visit where he met with President Bush and his administration. At the annual AIPAC conference, Bush's secretary of state Colin Powell said, "leaders have the responsibility to denounce violence, strip it of legitimacy [and] stop it...the U.S. stands ready to assist, not insist. Peace arrived at voluntarily by the partners themselves is likely to prove more robust...than a peace widely viewed as developed by others, or worse yet, imposed."

At a news conference President Bush was the first president to send a clear message to the Palestinian leadership saying, "The Palestinian Authority should speak out publicly and forcibly in a language that the Palestinian people [understand] to condemn violence and terrorism...The signal I am sending to the Palestinians is stop the violence and I can't make it any clearer." Following Sharon's visit, Yasser Arafat, then President of the Palestinian Authority, shifted strategy, trying not only to galvanize support from the Arab world, but also the EU, Russia and if possible, the US. Arafat escalated the fighting, in an attempt to elicit a strong Israeli response to paint the Palestinians as helpless victims and Israel as the aggressor. Mortars were fired from Gaza at Jewish towns in Gaza as well as other Jewish towns outside of Gaza. When the Israeli Defense Forces entered the section of Gaza where the mortars were fired from, Powell termed the Israeli action "excessive and disproportionate." There are no longer any Jewish towns in Gaza, as all Jews were forced to leave in 2005 by the Israeli government, in an effort towards peace. This resulted in Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist government, seizing control of the strip.

On September 11th, 2001 Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked planes, flying two into the world trade center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon, killing almost 3,000 people. Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the US sought to build a coalition against the terrorist organization responsible and knew the coalition would be stronger with Muslim states' involvement. In attempts to gain the support of the Arab world, Bush announced his support for the creation of a Palestinian state and continued to pressure Israeli leaders to meet with Arafat in efforts to establish another cease-fire, as the violence of the intifada continued its intensity.

Despite the talks, terrorism continued with an attack on a Jewish town in Gaza and another bombing in Jerusalem. In 2001, Sharon feared the western attempts at coalition building within the Arab world against terrorism would be akin to Western leaders sacrificing Czechoslovakia in 1938. French and British policy at the 1938 Munich Conference divided Czechoslovakia as a way to temporarily appease the Nazis which in hindsight only helped the Nazis. Sharon drew this parallel knowing that Israel shouldn't be divided in attempts to appease Arab nations so that they would join the US coalition against terrorism. In conversation with White House spokesman Ari Fleischer, Sharon cautioned, "Don't repeat the terrible mistake of 1938 when the enlightened democracies of Europe decided to sacrifice Czechoslovakia for a temporary solution. Do not try to placate the Arabs at our expense...Israel will not be Czechoslovakia." Mr. Fleischer bluntly replied, "The president believes that these remarks are unacceptable. Israel could have no better or stronger friend than the United States and no better friend than President Bush." Sharon later apologized, explaining his statement was misinterpreted.

On October 17, 2001, Palestinians murdered Israeli Cabinet Minister Rehavam Zeevi in a Jerusalem hotel and Arafat refused to arrest the Palestinian terrorists responsible for the assassination. In response, the IDF swept into six major Palestinian cities in search of the terrorist who perpetrated the attack. Israel compared its actions to those of the US invading Afghanistan. Just as the US invaded an entire country in search of terrorists that executed an attack on their soil, so too, Israel was entering Palestinian cities to search for terrorists.

However, President Bush held Israel to a different standard than the US when it came to finding terrorists saying, "I would hope that Israelis would move their troops as quickly as possible." Bush's State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said Israeli forces "should be withdrawn immediately from all Palestinian-controlled areas." Bush also continued to pressure Arafat to arrest the terrorist, but it was to no avail.

In a move showing his disagreement with Arafat's actions and policies, Bush refused to meet with Arafat at the UN. Condoleezza Rice, Bush's National Security Advisor at the time, noted, "You cannot help us with al-Qaeda, and hug Hezbollah or Hamas." Post 9/11, the U.S. added Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah to the US terrorist list.

Powel, the Secretary of State, outlined US policies towards the Israeli - Palestinian conflict saying Palestinians need to completely stop terrorism, and arrest all terrorists. He emphasized "no wrong can ever justify the murder of the innocent", and Palestinians must accept the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state. While Powel emphasized America's "enduring and iron-clad commitment to Israeli security," he expressed that Israel had to make concessions for peace to be possible.

Condoleezza Rice, who later became the Secretary of State under Bush, compared the struggles of the Palestinian people with the African-American struggle for civil rights. She even went as far as to compare Mahmoud Abbas the head of the Palestinian Authority to the Rev. Martin Luther King, because in her mind, both were committed to peace. While in reality Mahmoud Abbas incited and praised terrorism.

At a Passover Seder in Netanya, a suicide bomber murdered 30 and wounded 140 others. Over the next few days, suicide bombings continued in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa killing another 17 and wounding 84. Operation Defensive Shield was launched in response, with Israel conducting a sweep into the major Palestinian cities, and surrounded Arafat's compound in Ramallah. At first, America strongly backed Israel, with Powell noting, "Sharon made concessions, while Arafat backed terrorism." While Bush called out the terrorism claiming that "the chairman of the Palestinian Authority had not consistently opposed or confronted terrorists nor had he renounced terror as he agreed to do as Oslo," he also called on Israel to withdraw from all the cities they entered. A few days later, he further urged Israel to withdraw "without delay." Bush ran into much criticism and protests from American Jews and Evangelical Christians claiming Israel was just fighting terrorism the same way America was post 9/11.

While Bush supported Israel's sovereignty and Israel's fight against terrorism, there were 'strings attached,' strings he didn't attach to America's fight against terrorism in Afghanistan in post 9/11 or in Iraq during the Gulf War. When it came to terrorists attacking America, there was no doubt in his mind that everything in America's arsenal should be utilized to bring the terrorists to justice and ensure the security of the American people. That same determination in the fight against terrorism wasn't applied to Israel. During a period where Israeli civilians were scared to go on a bus because it might blow up, Israel was told by the Bush administration to practice restraint, and not chase after terrorists. This double standard, expecting Israel to bend over backwards to appease the terrorists, make concessions and not defend itself to the best of their abilities is an unfair expectation of one of America's closest allies.

# Barack Obama: Anti-Israel From Beginning To End

By Brian Pikelny



Barack Obama was the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and the first African American President of the United States. He served as a U.S. Senator from Illinois from 2006 to 2008 and an Illinois State Senator from 1997 to 2004. Before running for office, he worked as a civil rights activist, constitutional lawyer, and community leader.

Obama's eight years as President was the perfect example of this quote from *The Iron Wall* by Ze'ev Jabotinsky:

“It is incredible what political simpletons Jews are. They shut their eyes to one of the most elementary rules of life that you must not 'meet halfway' those who do not want to meet you.”

Obama won his first Presidential election in 2008. While he received 78% of the Jewish vote, many Jews will tell you he was very anti-Israel. Others say he was anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

Beginning with his first campaign for President, Obama surrounded himself with anti-Semites like General Merrill McPeak. McPeak was the 2008 Obama for President Co-Chair who had an impressive resume of blaming American foreign policy on the "Jewish Lobby." When he was asked during an interview why there isn't peace in the Middle East, he answered, "New York City. Miami. We have a large vote — vote, here in favor of Israel. And no politician wants to run against it." (In other words, those pesky Jews, who control America's policy on the Middle East).

In his book *Ally, My Journey Across the "American-Israeli Divide,"* Michael Oren wrote about his four years as Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. (from 2009-13). As Israel's Ambassador beginning in July 2009, Oren had a unique perspective of President Obama's Israeli policies during his first term.

Per Oren: after his first inauguration, Mr. Obama put daylight between Israel and America:

“When there is no daylight,” the president told American Jewish leaders in 2009, “Israel just sits on the sidelines, and that erodes our credibility with the Arabs.” The explanation ignored Israel’s 2005 withdrawal from Gaza and its two previous offers of Palestinian statehood in Gaza, almost the entire West Bank and half of Jerusalem—both offers rejected by the Palestinians.

George W. Bush was the President before Obama who made a deal with Israel. The Jewish State could add housing to the existing communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza as long as the new housing didn't take up more land. Within his first few months in office, Obama made it clear he was unilaterally throwing out that deal.

Obama implied that Israel was a product of the Holocaust and neglected the thousands of years of history and the Jewish people's attachment to the land. In his 2009 Cairo speech, Obama said Israel was only created because people felt guilty about the Holocaust.

"America's strong bonds with Israel are well known. This bond is unbreakable. It is based upon cultural and historical ties and the recognition that the aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history that cannot be denied. Around the world, the Jewish people were persecuted for centuries, and antisemitism in Europe culminated in an unprecedented Holocaust.”

During this time, Obama was also trying to restart the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and, like his predecessors, wasn't having any success. In Obama's case, the failure was based on Obama's position that Israel had to withdraw from Judea and Samaria before negotiations began. Israel had negotiated with the Palestinian leadership for years without the new Obama requirement. Palestinian President Abbas used Obama's statement as an excuse to avoid negotiations throughout Obama's presidency.

Netanyahu says that his interactions with Obama were especially difficult during this time. This was further evidenced in March 2010, after failing to extract a written promise of concessions on settlements before negotiations began, Obama walked out of his meeting with Netanyahu to go to the White House residence for dinner with his family (a lie they weren't in the White House that day). Before he left the meeting, Obama told Netanyahu to stay in the White House to consult with advisors about the concessions he wanted. The Israeli delegation left without even being offered a meal. Israeli newspapers reported the trip as a "humiliation."

At the G20 summit in November 2011, Obama forgot a fundamental rule for public figures - always assume the microphone is on. Over a live microphone, a conversation with French president Nicolas Sarkozy was heard. Sarkozy described Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu as a "Liar." Obama was heard responding, "You're fed up with him? I have to deal with him every day!"

In the Gaza wars, Obama constantly criticized Israel for the loss of life in Gaza and never acknowledged Hamas's use of human shields by firing and/or storing rockets in schools, hospitals, and other civilian areas. He never acknowledged Israel's efforts, such as warning civilians by blanket cell phone calls and leaflets to leave an area that was going to get bombed or the use of a warning "knock-knock" bomb before the real bomb hit a target.

In January 2015, radical Islamists attacked the Kosher supermarket Hyper-Cacher (French for Super Kosher) in Paris on a Friday afternoon. The attack occurred before the Jewish Sabbath when they knew it would be crowded with Jews shopping for their Shabbos dinner. Even though one of the terrorists, Amedy Coulibaly, told a journalist that he was there to kill Jews. At first, President Obama insisted it was a random act and not an anti-Semitic act. Eventually, the State Department admitted the attack was based on Antisemitism.

A few days after the attack, World leaders such as British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy joined French President Francois Hollande on a "unity march" through the streets of Paris. The march's purpose was to denounce the violence caused by the Islamist terrorists who attacked the magazine Charlie Hebdo for its comics showing the Muslim prophet Muhammed and the Anti-Semitic Hyper-Cacher attack. One world leader was conspicuously absent from the protest march of world leaders, Barack Obama.

Further evidence of Obama's hateful objection toward the Netanyahu government's negotiation positions occurred during Israel's March 2015 election. It was reported that the U.S. State Department gave \$350,000 of U.S. taxpayer money to an Israeli group called V15 to ensure that Netanyahu's Likud party would not be the lead party forming the next government coalition. V15's slogan was "Anyone but

Netanyahu (he won anyway)." Adding fuel to his attempt to interfere with Israel's election, a former Obama political strategist Jeremy Bird was sent to Israel to help V15 during the campaign.

Also, in 2015, Obama tried to convince Americans, particularly Jewish Americans, to accept the Iran nuclear deal. Ignoring the fact that the Iranian government had repeatedly and publicly said they would destroy the Jewish State (the little Satan) and the United States (the big Satan).

An issue that Obama and his secretary of State, John Kerry, untruthfully denied was the agreement didn't stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. It just delayed it for 10 years. That was one of the many lies that Obama and Kerry made when attempting to sell congress and American voters on the nuclear deal.

A July 31, 2015 phone with Obama call organized by the anti-Israel organization J Street allowed the President to show off his Antisemitism. During the 20-minute phone call, Obama said over and over those opponents of the Iran deal come from the same "array of forces that got us into the Iraq war."

William Daroff, Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Director of the Washington office of The Jewish Federations of North America, was one of the invited to be on the call. During the call, he tweeted his impressions of Obama's speech. "Jews are leading the effort to kill #Irandeal. 'Same people opposing the deal led us into Iraq war.'" Later he tweeted, "Canard: Jews got us into Iraq War."

In a meeting with a hand-picked list of Jewish leaders, Lee Rosenberg of AIPAC questioned Obama's statement comparing people who object to the Iran deal with those who supported the invasion of Iraq because many anti-Semites claim the Jews pushed Bush into invading Iraq. Obama explained that Netanyahu supported the Iraq invasion (true). The President left out that Netanyahu wasn't the prime minister at the time. During his last year in office, The PM was Ariel Sharon, who strongly urged Bush not to invade Iraq.

Obama sprinted home with more anti-Israel actions.

In January 2016, Obama's State Department condemned Israel for allowing the building of houses on the western side of the Jordan River. This condemnation was different and concerned only one relatively small plot of land. The land was initially owned by a U.S. Presbyterian Church. It was legally purchased from the Church in 2009 by Dr. Irving & Cherna Moskowitz. Obama didn't object when the Presbyterian Church built on the land, but he objected when Jews built on that same land after a legal purchase.

The piece de resistance of Obama's betrayal of Israel came on December 23, 2016, less than 30 days before Obama left office and Trump took over. Obama had United States U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power abstain on the U.N. Security Council resolution 2334. That resolution said that the Israeli communities which non-Zionists call settlements, are illegal and violate the Fourth Geneva Convention's

obligation to Israel as an occupying power. U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolutions are considered legally binding and could be used as a pretext to initiate a case in the International Court in the Hague. To further demonstrate Obama's feelings towards Israel, it was reported that Obama was behind the creation of the resolution and put Egypt up to present it. The resolution's creation and U.S. abstention may have been a payback to Israel for not kneeling down to Obama's wishes.

A coda to that U.N. action is that Obama wanted to immediately follow up with an even worse UNSC resolution. This one would have forced Israel to agree to a Palestinian state based on the 1948 armistice lines. Per a transcript of a series of phone calls made between 12/23 and 12/26/2016 between the incoming National Security Council General Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Kislyak, learned the Russian Ambassador told Flynn that his country wasn't going to support the upcoming U.S.-pushed UNSC resolution forcing Israel to the 1949 armistice lines. The phone call was unknown to the public until it was sent by Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe to Congress in May 2020.

There are many more anti-Israel actions by President Obama and his team, but they will be reserved for later. This is an e-book, not an e-library. The evidence demonstrates that Obama was the worst American President regarding his relationship and treatment of Israel and American Jews since Ben Gurion read Israel's Declaration of Independence seventy-five years ago.

# Donald Trump: The Most Pro-Israel/Pro Jewish President in Israel's 75 Years

By Jeff Dunetz, Director of Special Projects, Herut North America



In America there are many people who love Donald Trump, and just as many who hate him. This article won't cover any of that. What it does talk about is why many consider Donald Trump the most pro-Jewish and pro-Israel president **Ever, at least since the modern state of Israel was born 75 years ago.** And like Truman his decision wasn't based on getting votes, but what he thought was the right thing to do.

Once he was nominated for President Trump began to get slandered. Opponents from the other side of the political aisle joined with talking heads on the mainstream TV media slandered Donald Trump as being anti-Semitic. Nothing could be further from the truth.

**Trump supported Jews and Jewish causes his entire life.**

In the 1980s, Trump's father Fred Trump, himself a supporter of Jewish causes and charities, became friends with the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations at the time, Benjamin Netanyahu. Fred's son Donald and Bibi became fast friends.

Donald Trump continued his father's pattern of donating to Jewish and Israeli causes.

In 1976, he received the Humanitarian Award from Jewish National Health, a Denver hospital doing research/treatment in respiratory & related disorders.

In 1983, he was presented with the prestigious Tree of Life award, the Jewish National Fund's highest humanitarian award, for his participation in a consortium of donors funding such projects as playgrounds in Yokneam, Sufa, and on a kibbutz in southern Israel.

Trump also donated to help build new infrastructure in the Negev for Jews who were forced to evacuate Sinai under the terms of Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. Trump's donations were used to build greenhouses, homes, and roads for evacuees. A plaque bearing Trump's name in English and Hebrew appears on a wall in Moshav Dekel, in the Eshkol region.

In 2003, Trump joined other New York donors to finance a reservoir in the western Negev.

In 2005, he contributed toward creating new communities for Israelis who were evacuated from the Gaza Strip.

According to TheGivingTrump.com, in 1985, the future POTUS was chairman of JNF's Annual Real Estate Divisions Dinner Dance, where over \$700K was raised, the largest fundraising ever for any JNF event.

On July 4, 1984, Trump attended the American Friends of Hebrew University Annual Sports Award Fundraising Dinner to memorialize the 11 murdered Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics.

In the 1990s, Trump tried to convert his Mar-a-Lago mansion in Palm Beach into a country club, but the town council placed restrictions on his club. He filed a lawsuit claiming the council was discriminating against his club, partly because his club was open to Jews and blacks while other established clubs excluded Jews and blacks. "The episode shook the Palm Beach establishment, unaccustomed to having its

linen, dirty or not, aired publicly.” Trump had “elevated the issue of discriminatory policies at social clubs.”

In 2000, Trump was recognized by UJA Federation NY’s Hospitality Division for being an industry leader. He received the Hotel & Real Estate Visionary of the Century Award. He gave the organization a \$25,000 donation in 2012 and another \$15,000 in 2014.

Also, Trump gave a \$10,000 donation to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in 2003, according to spokeswoman Lisa Safir, and a gift in 2012 for general operating expenses amounting to \$100,000, which put Trump’s name on the museum’s wall of contributors.

In 2004, Trump was chosen to be the grand marshal of the Salute to Israel Parade, the largest single gathering in support of Israel, with an estimated 1 million spectators, 40 floats, 16 marching bands, and dozens of entertainers.

In 2014, Trump pledged to donate more than \$100,000 to the Israeli emergency rescue service, United Hatzalah, toward purchasing four ambulances, according to the Tazpit News Agency.

In 2015, Trump received the Liberty Award from The Algemeiner for his contributions to US-Israel relations. His daughter Ivanka introduced Trump when he accepted the award at The Algemeiner’s “Jewish 100” Gala. At that event, Trump said, “I have a Jewish daughter. This wasn’t in the plan, but I’m very glad it happened.” He also added, “We love Israel. We will fight for Israel 100 percent, 1000 percent. It will be there forever.”

These were some of Donald Trump’s involvement with the Jewish community and Israel before becoming president. His record of friendship, generosity, and affection for the Jewish community in the US and in Israel is stunning and extraordinary.

### **Trump The President**

The support and affection for Israel and the Jewish community continued after Donald Trump became president. Some of his acts in support of Israel and the Jewish community include:

- Withdrew from disastrous Iran nuclear deal.
- Imposed, and continued imposing, sanctions on Iran.
- Officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.
- Moved US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Signed Taylor Force Act so US funds would not be used to pay terrorists to maim and murder Americans and Israelis (Pay for Slay).

- Recognized Israel's sovereignty over the strategic Golan Heights.
- Stopped funding the terror-enabler UNRWA and closed the PLO office in DC.
- Appointed Nikki Haley, a very pro-Israel US ambassador to the United Nations in decades who, as the Trump administration's voice, forcefully opposed the UN's anti-Israel actions.
- Called out and refused to accept the positions of members of Congress who support BDS.
- Signed an Executive Order extending Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to protect college students from anti-Semitic attacks.
- Declared Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria legal under international law.
- Was the first POTUS to visit the Kotel while in office.
- Abraham Accords: Mediated between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan with Israel to create deals for those Arab nations to recognize, trade ambassadors, and begin commerce with Israel. Trump was close to adding Saudi Arabia when he left office.

After Harry Truman, many presidents of both parties made grandiose promises about doing the right thing for Israel and the Jewish people while running for office.

Whether one liked or hated his other policies, a look at his Israel accomplishments earns Donald Trump the record as the most pro-Israel President of the United States in the 75 years since the creation of modern Israel.

# Joe Biden: From Begin to Bibi

By Jeff Dunetz, Director of Special Projects, Herut North America



Although Joe Biden has only been President for two years, early indications are that his post-office legacy won't include "friend of Israel."

When examining President Biden's relationship with Israel, it's appropriate to look at a meeting the future President's had with an Israeli leader. While still a senator, on June 22, 1982, Biden attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing. At that hearing, the committee interviewed Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin.

Begin was a strong Zionist who learned from his mentor the great Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

Sen. Joe Biden (Delaware) had attacked Israeli communities (incorrectly called settlements) in Judea and Samaria. If Israel didn't stop building the communities immediately, he'd ensure U.S. economic aid would stop.

Begin shot back at Biden:

"Don't threaten us with cutting off your aid. It will not work. I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens. Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid."



When Begin said, "Nobody came to our aid..." he wasn't talking about the heroes who put their bodies and lives on the line to fight Hitler or the soldiers who liberated the concentration camps. Begin was talking about the allied leaders such as FDR, who could have saved victims but thought the U.S. already had too many Jews. Or Winston Churchill, who refused to ignore the 1939 White

Paper (he designed the initial version in 1918). The 1939 white paper limited the number of Jews returning to their eternal homeland to 75K total over the five years beginning in 1939.

Not learning his lesson from the first threat, Biden raised his voice at Begin and banged twice on the table. Begin angrily responded:

"This desk is designed for writing, not for fists. Don't threaten us with slashing aid. Do you think that because the U.S. lends us money, it is entitled to impose on us what we must do? We are grateful for the assistance we have received, but we are not to be threatened. I am a proud Jew. Three thousand years of culture are behind me, and you will not frighten me with threats. Take note: we do not want a single soldier of yours to die for us."

[The NY Times](#) reported Begin's very diplomatic comment about the meeting.

Mr. Begin said: "I enjoyed the session very much. I believe in liberty that free men should freely discuss problems, and if they have differences of opinion, they should voice them in sincerity."

"I said it was a lively discussion," he said. "If you want to use other adjectives. ..." He paused, then said, "Lively is enough."

Throughout his senate career, Joe Biden's Israel actions were as one-sided as he demonstrated during that meeting with Begin. As he neared becoming Vice President, Joe Biden's anti-Israel actions became harsher.

Two months before he was elected to be Barack Obama's number two, syndicated radio host Hugh Hewitt reported:

Democratic vice-presidential candidate Joe Biden was quoted Monday as telling senior Israeli officials behind closed doors that the Jewish state will have to reconcile itself to a nuclear Iran.

(...)

"Israel will have to reconcile itself with the nuclearization of Iran," Army Radio quoted Biden as telling the unnamed officials. "It's doubtful if the economic sanctions will be effective, and I am against opening an additional military and diplomatic front."

Immediately afterward, Ed Morrissey, Managing Editor of Hot Air, discussed Hewitt's report and reports about Biden's comments in Ha'aretz, Jerusalem Post, and elsewhere.

In 2021, Joe Biden was inaugurated and became the fourteenth American President since the rebirth of Israel in 1948.

The easiest way to describe President Biden's relationship with Israel after two years is, "so far, no good."

He began his presidency by picking a selection of Israel haters and/or Iran apologists to join his team.

Some examples of that problematic staff include:

**Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence (DNI)** Ms. Haines' appointment was endorsed by the anti-Israel group J-Street. She signed their letter to the DNC berating them for being "silent on the rights of Palestinians and on Israeli actions that undermine those rights."

**John Kerry- Climate** bCzar. Kerry believed Israel couldn't make peace with any Arab state until peace was made with the Palestinian Authority. Kerry lied to the American people about the details of the

JCPOA Iran nuclear deal to make it look better. In 2018 Kerry told a representative of Palestinian Authority's President Abbas to ignore Trump's demands because he'll be out of office within a year.

**Karine Jean Pierre- initially Deputy Press Secretary.** Wrote an op-ed in Newsweek urging Democrats not to attend the 2020 AIPAC convention. She slandered Israel when the IDF was defending Israeli citizens against Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorists who set off explosives at Israel's border fence, trying to allow 30,000 Hamas-led Arabs to invade Israel and commit more violence.

**Robert Malley- Special Envoy To Iran.** Not often do I lay the sins of the father on the son, but in this case, it is part of the story. Robert Malley's dad was an Israel hater and friend of Yasser Arafat. Perhaps this was the reason why Malley was the **ONLY** American who was part of President Clinton's peace negotiating to blame Israel for Arafat walking out of the talk. The others involved, including the former President, said Yasser Arafat walked away from a "sweetheart" deal. Malley served under three different Presidents. Between his White House jobs, Malley publicly trashed Israel and promoted the terrorist group Hamas as an essential peace partner.

There are others, but this is an E-Book not an E-Encyclopedia.

One of the most positive events in Israel's seventy-five-year history was the Abraham Accords. Announced September 13, 2020, the accords were Israel's first peace with Arab nations in 24 years. Along with ending a state of war between Israel and the participating nations, the agreements included provisions about economic cooperation. Thus, demonstrating the economic benefits of peace with Israel's multi-faceted solid economy.

Over a four-month period, the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan made peace with the Jewish state. At the end of the Trump administration, the foggy bottom (State Dept) scuttlebutt was other countries, including Saudi Arabia, would soon hop on the peace train.

After his inauguration, Biden refused to continue the momentum that began with the accords. Instead, President Biden returned to the old unsuccessful strategy of no peace with other Arab nations until there is peace with the Palestinian Authority (which refuses to negotiate) and "land for peace," instead of "peace for peace." The President and his foreign policy team are not fans of the Abraham Accords. Therefore, it has no chance of expanding to other countries.

Some of the issues decided by the Biden administration that are problematic for Israel:

**Still trying to return to Iran deal.**

**Ignoring Taylor Force Act.** A law that prohibits U.S. financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it ends its pay-to-slay policy of providing stipends to terrorists in Israeli jails and the families of suicide bombers.

Reestablished **financial support of UNWRA**, a UN Education organization whose curriculum incites violence and teaches Antisemitism. In Gaza, UNRWA schools are used to hide rockets and its students as human shields.

After only two years as President, Joe Biden has shown himself to be the same person who banged on a table and threatened Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin if Israel didn't stop building communities in Judea and Samaria.

He still has two years left in this term to redeem himself from his Presidency, earning an Anti-Israel legacy. But since I don't look good in blue, I won't hold my breath.