

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Unintended Consequences for Israel?

By Kenneth W. Stein

Unintended consequences are part of history. When we look back in five, ten, or twenty years, what will have unexpectedly happened because of the slaughter of innocents on September 11, 2001? History is on the side of unanticipated outcome. For Jews in support of a homeland or state of their own, the aftermath of wars has brought unexpected, costly, but positive results.

Already many coalition partners are using the common external terrorist threat to alter relations with the U.S. and rework those with each other. In 2020, will the U.S. be importing more oil from Russia, Uzbekistan, and other former Soviet republics than from Saudi Arabia? Will 2015 see the tenth anniversary of the end of the Indo-Pakistani struggle over Kashmir?

What about Israel? Both Israel and the Palestinians need a ladder from which to descend from this horrendous cycle of violence. They have no choice except to share the land west of the Jordan River. The moment is ripe for

Israelis and Palestinians to reach a non-belligerency agreement that includes the establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state which does not threaten Israel's Jewish existence.

A Palestinian state, which enshrines one-person/one-vote, sees the creation of a Palestinian constitution, and evolves into a non-autocratic form of government, would certainly be an unintended consequence of September 11. This is no pipe dream: look at polling data of Palestinians taken since the mid-1990s and one finds that this is precisely the kind of state that the vast majority of Palestinians are seeking. The hijackers of their national movement need to retire. Why now?

First, it is the right thing to do. Second, a majority of Palestinians and Israelis support the notion. Third, it begins to bring to an end the notion that Palestinian refugees will be able to return to pre-1967 Israel. Sari Nusseibeh, Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir Arafat's new representative in Jerusalem, has recently said that he would be willing to accept a

peace agreement with Israel without a Palestinian right of return. Fourth, bolstering secular as opposed to religiously motivated Palestinian nationalism is in the interest of the majority populations in the region; they do not believe that Islam is only a religion of violence or the only platform for political mobilization. Fifth, the presence of moderately successful Palestinian self-determination will inevitably have natural and long-term repercussions upon surrounding autocratic Arab states. It is unlikely that sudden democracy or democratic values will break out like a plague in Palestine, but the spores are there for such values to germinate. Likewise, I do not believe that Syria, Libya, or Iraq will suddenly declare that the "Federalist Papers" or Voltaire become mandatory reading in the public schools. But if Miranda rights are found in a Palestinian constitution, it will certainly have a debilitating influence upon most regimes in the region where rights of the individual are most often left to the whim of state security

services.

Domestic political engineering catalyzed from the outside only works if individual self-interest is promoted. Israelis and Palestinians must receive iron-clad commitments about their security. Palestinians must receive a political as well as an economic dividend — that means money to the tune of \$2 billion plus a year for more than a decade that does not find itself into the pockets of corrupt politicians, but instead onto the tables and bank accounts of Palestinians. It is time for the Arab world and European Union to defray a significant portion of this commitment.

Historical precedent may have predictive value. Since World War I, the months and years after conflicts inadvertently catalyzed the Jewish state's creation and solidification. Before WWI was over, the Balfour Declaration was issued. Two years after WWII ended, the UN voted to create a Jewish and Arab state in Palestine. Five months after the June 1967 War ended, the framework for all Arab-Israeli negotiations was enshrined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Days after the October 1973 War

ended, U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger pushed Egyptian-Israeli diplomacy to a point where President Carter sealed a peace deal in 1979. Nine months after the 1991 Gulf War ended, the Madrid Middle East peace conference led to bilateral talks, the Oslo Accords, and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Without the assault on America on September 11, would either President George Bush or Prime Minister Tony Blair have publicly endorsed the establishment of a Palestinian state that did not jeopardize Israeli existence?

What is similar in all these instances is that prior to the outbreak of each conflict there were discussions, proposed outlines, sometimes violence, and always active diplomacy surrounding the notion of a Jewish state in the Middle East. History does not have to repeat itself, but unintended consequences, even similar ones, are possible. ☆

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The View from Israel

The Other Israel

By Carl Alpert

Haifa - The world press, including papers in your own home town, report on Israel at some length these days, but they provide only one dimension of the story. There are other aspects of Israel that seldom get reported. We seek, here, to add those missing dimensions.

Eye for an Eye

In June an Arab suicide bomber killed 21 Israeli teenagers at a Tel Aviv night club. The family of one of the Jewish girls killed offered her body parts for transplant as needed. The cornea of her eye restored sight to an 11-year-old Arab girl from a Galilee village.

Obligatory Palm Trees

The municipality of Kiryat Bialik, a suburb of Haifa, has decreed that for every apartment in a newly-built dwelling house, the builder must plant a palm tree on the plot. The contractors are up in arms.

Say It With Flowers from Israel

About 30% of all the flowers imported by Europe last year came from Israel, putting this country in first place. Kenya was second with 20%. Value of the billions of flowers came to about \$200 million. The most popular blooms were roses, with carnations in second place.

Even-Handed Reporting

Agence France-Presse, leading French news agency, advertised that it was looking for an experienced and dynamic reporter to be based in Jerusalem and to write on Palestine affairs. Applicants should be native English speakers with an excellent command of Arabic. Nothing was said about knowledge of Hebrew.

Was the Dog Ashamed?

Tel Aviv played host to a special animal show to publicize the problems of the country's pets in the streets, in laboratories and in industry. Animal welfare groups that sponsored the event offered a prize to find the dog which looked most like its master. We looked high and low but could not find a picture of the winners.

Fathers Take Birth Leave

Israel has extended for an additional three years a regulation which permits fathers to share

extended maternity leave from their places of employment, alternately with new mothers.

Most Respected Professions

A survey of Israeli public opinion indicated that physicians are the most highly respected persons in public life. They received 29.8% of the votes cast. In second place, with 24.4% were university academicians. Following, in descending order of popularity and much further down the list, were engineers, high-tech personnel and accountants. In last place, with only 3%, were politicians and members of the Knesset.

Still Time to Reconsider

On its humor page *Yediot Ahronot* ran a headline: Sharon rejects a proposal from Peres for a joint celebration of their combined 150th birthday.

The Shoemaker Goes Barefooted

Fire broke out in a Tel Aviv store not long ago, destroyed the contents, and flared to upper stories where two home cooking gas canisters exploded loudly, leading to neighborhood fears of a terrorist attack. The store specialized in fire-fighting equipment.

Why the Kids Are So Smart

The school year in Israel, taking into consideration summer vacation and holiday closures, is one of the longest in the world, second only to Japan. In the primary schools there are 216 class days per year, compared to 175 in the U.S., and a world average of 190.

A Fruitful Survey

The favorite fruit of Israelis, gathering a 26% vote in a national survey, is watermelon. Following in order are apples, 23%; grapes, 22%; peaches, 21%; bananas, 11%; and so on down through oranges, strawberries, pears, cherries and apricots.

Have Name - Need Street

For some years a street in downtown Haifa bore the name of the *Hatam Sofer*, a distinguished Jewish scholar. But when a noisy pub and a discotheque opened on the street, religious elements in the city felt this was not in the spirit of the revered scholar, and so the name of the street was changed. Now they are looking for another street in Haifa worthy enough to

bear the name of Hatam Sofer.

The Bar Has Many Tenders

A few months ago, 1,933 new lawyers were accepted as members of the bar in Israel, joining more than 25,000 lawyers already practicing here. That gives Israel a world record of one lawyer for every 250. But cheer up. The law schools in the country report a total enrollment of 11,000 students; in the meantime, 2,018 lawyers are unemployed. ☆

New UJC Officers

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founder, past president and Life Trustee of the Agnon School, a Jewish day school in Cleveland, and he serves on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He is a graduate of the

Ohio State University and holds a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Plant is Director of the Harry Weinberg Family Foundation, in addition to his chairmanship of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. He is a Director of Mercantile bankshares Corp. and is a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. ☆

LIGHTS on ICE

Charlotte's First Public Menorah
Made Entirely of Ice!

Come and celebrate the community-wide Chanukah Menorah Lighting. See the spectacular giant ice menorah sculpted in front of your very eyes. Sing the blessings of Chanukah as the ice menorah is kindled.

At this festival of freedom, let's light up the Charlotte night with the bright lights of Chanukah!



**Sunday, December 9
5:00 P.M.
Phillips Place**



In the courtyard between Coplion's and the Modern Salon & Spa
Doughnuts and hot drinks will be served!

Sponsored by Lubavitch of North Carolina
For more information, please call 704-366-3984