



Events...

Sunday May 7, 8pm

Yehuda Glick, MK, speaks at BAYT.

Quote of the Week...

Remarks by Vice President Pence at an Israel Independence Day Commemoration Event

Indian Treaty Room, Eisenhower Executive Office Building

Well, thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Thank you all for being here. And on behalf of the First Family, welcome to the White House. (Applause.)

I bring greetings from the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.) And on behalf of President Trump, just a few minutes ago, I had the distinct honor to wish a happy Independence Day to Prime Minister Netanyahu over the phone as we celebrate the 69th anniversary of the independence of America's most cherished ally, the Jewish state of Israel. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the distinguished guests who are here and members of Congress who made time to come to the White House this afternoon, and people representing a broad spectrum of Americans who all cherish the relationship that the American people have enjoyed throughout these 69 years with the people of Israel.

It's humbling to be here with you on this remarkable and even a hallowed day. From Secretary Steve Mnuchin to Ambassador David Friedman -- (applause) -- to Senator Orrin Hatch, who has been a great, great champion for Israel all these many years in the United States Senate. (Applause.)

Distinguished members of Congress, including Congressman Peter King, who's with us today. (Applause.) Republicans and Democrats who are gathered here, honored guests, my fellow friends of Israel, thank you, on behalf of the President of the United States. Just thank you for being here today at the White House to celebrate this day, the anniversary of a moment that will be remembered for eternity.

You're all here, all of you, regardless of your home, your creed, because on this day, the fifth day in the month of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar in 1948, nothing short of a miracle occurred. On that day, in the ancient and eternal homeland of the Jewish people, the state of Israel was reborn. (Applause.)

On that day, the Jewish people's 2000-year exile, the longest exile of any people anywhere, ended. And on that day, a prophecy literally came to pass. And I believe in my heart that God himself fulfilled his promise to his people. The Lord God tells us in the Old Book, "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into and ye shall live." And Israel lives today. (Applause.)

Today and every day, the state of Israel and her people bear witness to God's faithfulness as well as their own. How unlikely was Israel's birth? How much more unlikely has been her survival? And how confounding against all odds, both past and present, has been her thriving. Since the moment of their independence, the Israeli people have awed the world with their strength of will, and their strength of character. They've turned the desert into a garden, scarcity into plenty. And people of Israel have turned hope into a future of security and prosperity.

And at all times, in war and in peace, the people of Israel and the Jewish people have held their heads high. Every day, Israel takes the curses and slanders of too much of the world and turns them into blessings. The dignity of the people of Israel rebukes all who condemn them, not for what they do wrong, but they condemn them for what they do right.

And under President Donald Trump, let me assure you of this -- if the world knows nothing else, the world will know this: America stands with Israel. (Applause.) President Trump stands with Israel for the same reason that every freedom-loving American stands with Israel -- because her cause is our cause. Her values are our values. And her fight is our fight.

And President Donald Trump is a lifelong friend and supporter of the state of Israel and its people. You know, I've seen firsthand the President's deep affection for Israel and all who cherish her, and so has the world. Just

ISRAEL NEWS

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

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last week, President Trump stood with Holocaust survivors during the National Days of Remembrance. And he declared, "I will always stand with the Jewish people, and I will always stand with our great friend and partner, the state of Israel." (Applause.)

For my part, my Christian faith compels me to cherish Israel as well as our deep alliance and historical ties. The songs of the land of the people of Israel were the anthems of my youth when I was growing up. You know, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting Israel in 2004 and 2008, and we fulfilled a lifelong dream to bring all of our children to the Holy Land in December of 2014. It was a joy -- inexpressible.

So let me say with confidence to all who are gathered here: President Trump stands without apology for Israel, and he always will. (Applause.)

Just look at the actions our President has taken since he took office. The President named David Friedman to represent the United States of America in Israel. (Applause.) The President named Governor Nikki Haley to be America's Ambassador to the United Nations. (Applause.) And the President of the United States, as we speak, is giving serious consideration into moving the American embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. (Applause.)

To be clear, the President has also personally committed to resolving the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Even now, we're making valuable progress toward the noble goal of peace. Thanks to the President's tireless leadership, momentum is building and goodwill is growing. And that while there will undoubtedly have to be compromises, you can rest assured President Donald Trump will never compromise the safety and security of the Jewish State of Israel -- not now, not ever. (Applause.)

President Trump has made it clear America stands alongside Israel, as friends and as allies, as together we confront those enemies who threaten our people and all that we hold dear. Since the moment of their nation's birth, there's hardly been a day when the people of Israel have not lived without war or the fear of war, or the grim reality of terror. Know today that our prayers for the safety of the people of Israel, each and every day, go from the hearts of the American people to heaven. And know that Israel does not stand alone.

Today, under President Donald Trump, America's support for Israel's security is at record levels. (Applause.) And in President Trump, America has a leader who will call our enemies by their name. I want to promise you, as the fight even goes on now in precincts around Mosul and Iraq, even in northern Syria and Afghanistan, this President is determined to keep his promise to the American people. ISIS is on the run, and we will hunt down and destroy ISIS and terrorist organizations at their source so they no longer threaten our people, our allies, and our most cherished ally, Israel. (Applause.)

And under President Donald Trump, America will stand strong in the face of the leading state sponsor of terrorism. This administration has put Iran on notice. America will no longer tolerate Iran's efforts to destabilize the region and jeopardize Israel's security. Under President Donald Trump, the United States of America will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. (Applause.) This is our solemn promise to you, to Israel, and to the world.

History attests that enmity toward the Jewish people often turns from evil thought to evil action. The State of Israel bears witness to this truth. On this day, so many years ago, only three years after the horrors of the Holocaust, Israel was given life by a people who had looked into the eye of the angel of death. The Jewish people have persevered through history's darkest hour, for in that darkness shine the light of faith, of hope, and of love.

It was faith that led the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland. It was hope that spurred them to strive with all their strength for a brighter future. And it was love for each other, and a love for freedom, that has inspired the Jewish people to greatness at the hour of Israel's birth and every hour since.

And so today we celebrate and we marvel at all that Israel and her people have accomplished. We praise their vigilance and resolve in the face of crisis and condemnation, and for their enduring courage in this time of widening challenges and unknowable threats. And today we remember the sacrifice of those who gave so much for Israel's existence, and for those brave men and women who stand sentry at this very hour.

Israel is an eternal testament to the undying fortitude of the Jewish people, to the unfathomable power of human freedom, and to the unending faithfulness of God. Indeed, though Israel was built by human hands, it's

impossible not to sense that just beneath their history lies the hand of heaven. For as God tells us in his word, speaking to his people so long ago, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I believe these words are as true today as they were in millennia past. And so I say with confidence, with your help, with God's help, through the strength and courage of the people of Israel and all who cherish her, and with President Donald Trump in the White House, the best days for Israel and America are yet to come. (Applause.)

Thank you very much. May God continue to bless and protect Israel and the people, and may God bless America. (Applause.)
(Office of the Vice President May 2)

Commentary...

Celebrating Independence Day in a World of Turmoil By Isi Leibler

Israel Independence Day symbolizes the empowerment of all Jews in the wake of the most successful renaissance of a nation after two thousand years of exile. It highlights the dramatic contrast between our status today and that of our powerless kinsmen facing doom on the eve of the Holocaust. It is not a celebration exclusively for Israelis but for Jews throughout the world.

But as we celebrate, we should be under no illusions. Our remarkable status is due to our independent power and the fact that we do not rely on the goodwill of others for our survival.

The world has not changed or learnt from the tragic consequences of appeasement in the 1930's which led to Nazi aggression and the Holocaust. Today we witness again a state of global turmoil, confronted by an evil Islamist menace which threatens to undermine the Judeo-Christian moral structures of our civilization.

Europe is in a state of near anarchy. The decision by Chancellor Merkel to open Europe to "refugees", most of whom are anti-democratic and fiercely anti-Semitic, has created massive demographic and social upheaval. Conventional political parties are disintegrating and populist and radical right wing parties are on the upsurge, with governments obliged to restrict civil liberties to strengthen security.

In the U.S., the liberal left has still not come to terms with the fact that the populist Donald Trump was elected as their president. But he has astounded them by showing that despite his America First policy, he was not reticent in employing force to bring vicious war criminals like Assad to heel and sending a clear message to the North Koreans and Iranians that the days of Obama groveling were over.

What is the status of Jews in this insane world?

Jews who remain in the diaspora have forfeited the privilege of being part of the greatest miracle of the last 2000 years: the ultimate realization of the most sacred Jewish prayers, faith and hope during endless years of exile and persecution.

And today, the high cost of remaining in the diaspora is becoming all too clear.

Anti-Semitism is at an all-time high with Jews in most European countries treated like pariahs, facing constant terror threats and in many cases requiring security forces to guard them at their synagogues and their children in their schools.

In the United States madness prevails with far left "liberal" Jews spearheading "Jewish religious" campaigns against Trump. Even mainstream groups like the ADL and sectors of the Reform movement sought to accuse Trump and his administration of either supporting or harboring anti-Semites.

The problem with many of these Jews is that they are utterly ignorant of their Jewish heritage and view Israel through the far-left prism in which regarding it as a colonialist implant is a critical component of their DNA.

But despite this dismal picture of Diaspora Jewry, most Jews are reassured that with the existence of an empowered Jewish state always ready and willing to accept them, they will never face the horror that their ancestors experienced in Europe in the 1930's when no country would grant them haven.

But at the end of the day, it is inevitable that it will be a struggle for Jews outside of Israel to retain their identity, whether because of anti-Semitism or assimilation, and as their commitment to Israel diminishes, so too will their connection to the Jewish people and Judaism.

Yom Haatzmaut should be more than a holiday and barbecues. We should focus on the spiritual aspects and seek to convey to younger generations that the rebirth of their nation - which so many seem to take for granted - is truly miraculous.

We need only remind ourselves of the incredible devastation that took place 75 years ago following 2000 years of wretched dispersion, persecution, expulsion and murder and climaxing with the holocaust. We should view this in the light of our resurrected nation which has grown from 600,000 Jews in 1948 to 6 million Jews today. We should remind ourselves that our vibrant nation state revived the sacred tongue of our ancestors and molded broken refugees and survivors from all corners of the

globe into a thriving national culture.

Despite being one of their smallest states in the world, Israel has created one of the most powerful global military force which has defeated superior forces seeking its destruction and today deters its enemies. Israel is an economic miracle with one of the most successful economies in the world, creating more startups in the technological and medical arena per capita than any other country. Over recent years, Israel has discovered vast gas fields which will make it an exporter rather than an importer of energy. And it has produced the most efficient desalination program in the world which enabled it to overcome the water shortage and provide assistance to other nations.

Never in their wildest dreams could those who survived the Holocaust ever have imagined the miraculous success of the recreated nation state based primarily on refugees from Eastern European pogroms, Nazism or Arab persecution.

It was a wise decision, reflecting compassion and insight, to directly precede Yom Haatzmaut with Yom Hazikaron, a day to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in defense of our homeland.

Above all, as we celebrate we should pledge to ensure that as a nation we must continue strengthening ourselves militarily, economically and socially. The reason for our extraordinary success in nation-building flows from our inner strength and determination.

Israel today has been blessed with an American leader who is deeply sensitive to Jews and has displayed unprecedented support for Israel. We should seek to continue improving our relationship with the Trump administration and cooperate with his efforts to renew peace negotiations. We can hopefully progress toward reaching an accommodation on the settlements, annexing the Golan and have Washington formally recognize Jerusalem as our capital by relocating its embassy.

Where appropriate, we should continue building both covert and open alliances even with countries traditionally hostile towards us who share the common threat facing the region from the Iranian terror state.

Despite living in a region where barbarism is rampant and facing threats from religious fanatics pledged to our destruction, Israel has never been as strong and secure as it is today. We have every reason to count our blessings, rejoice and give thanks to the Almighty.

Chag Sameach. (Jerusalem Post May 1)

Jerusalem Doesn't Need UNESCO By Ariel Bolstein

I was in Italy when UNESCO adopted another one of its disgraceful resolutions. Obviously, no one in Italy cared one bit. The only thing Italians are interested in these days, when it comes to UNESCO, is the campaign to persuade the organization to include the art of Neapolitan pizza making in its prestigious cultural heritage list. But even if the campaign fails, it won't make the Italians any less proud of their pizza. This is precisely how we should carry ourselves.

With or without UNESCO, Jerusalem is the bedrock of Jewish nationhood, the capital of Israel. Everyone else is only a guest. There is no Jerusalem without Israel and there is no Israel without Jerusalem. We, the Jews, will try to welcome any and all guests with open arms, but we will make an even greater effort to establish our ownership -- to tighten our grip on all parts of the city and erase any attempt to cast doubt over its future, whether the attempt is made by an unimportant and useless international organization like UNESCO or by anyone else. We have returned to the cisterns and the marketplace and the square, and no person can stop the return of the Jewish people to their rightful home.

An educated look at how the UNESCO member states voted on the resolution reveals that Israel is actually doing quite well forging alliances and fostering international support. The result of the vote was essentially a foregone conclusion due to the automatic majority of Islamic countries and the countries forced to kowtow to them. And yet, the camp opposing and abstaining from these psychotic decisions has grown. Allow me to predict that the longer we remain steadfast in refusing to compromise on our rights, the larger the sane camp will become. Any state that doesn't join this camp will become irrelevant and grow increasingly detached from reality (like Sweden, for example).

Italy supported Israel and voted against the delusional proposal, which purports to sever Jerusalem from Israel. Every Italian person I spoke to about the decision was surprised: How can you vote otherwise? How can you vote against the truth? Israel has and is doing a great deal to show the world the truth. The Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Strategic Affairs and other bodies are investing considerable thought in the campaign with assistance from civilian organizations. And the message has been upgraded. Instead of stuttering and apologizing, Israel is speaking truthfully and clearly: The Jewish people rose in the land of Israel, which is lawfully theirs, and all the historical, legal and security-related arguments simply reinforce this bond. The quicker the countries in the region come to accept this unassailable reality, the better off they will be.

There is still room for Israel to improve its efforts in the international arena. A sizeable portion of the countries in the world are astoundingly ignorant about the Jewish state, its past and its current situation. Israeli UNESCO Ambassador Carmel Shama Hacoheh's powerful speech in response to this week's decision may just have been strong enough to

penetrate this wall of ignorance. But sophisticated and effective tools are required to disseminate the material to the relevant audiences. Establishing a network of Israeli cultural centers in capitals around the world could be this tool. France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain and even smaller countries have operated similar centers for decades. In our interconnected global village, a network such as this would allow Israel to speak directly to the people of London, Paris or Rome without the information middlemen in the media or international organizations. If we want them to learn about Jerusalem from us, rather than from UNESCO, we will have to keep making strides in this field. (Israel Hayom May 4)

Fighting for the Truth By Nadav Shragai

Many years ago, when Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook appeared before an investigative committee of the British Mandatory government, he refused to address what should be "taken for granted" -- the Jewish people's ties to the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, arguing that it was so obvious that to elaborate would be like holding up a candle to illuminate the sun. In the case of UNESCO, which almost constantly takes care to hide the truth and the sun's light, a different approach should be taken.

Yesterday's resolution was the latest in a series of unsuitable resolutions UNESCO has passed. Rachel's Tomb was not and will never be a Muslim mosque named after Bilal ibn Rabah, a muezzin buried in Aleppo, Syria, who served the Prophet Muhammad. The Cave of the Patriarchs, which was purchased by Abraham from Ephron the Hittite, was stolen from us by the Muslims over the course of generations. The current status of the cave being shared by two religions is a compromise that was forced on the Muslims 50 years ago when Israel, aided by history, corrected a few colossal absurdities that the Muslims thought would remain in place there for eternity.

Jerusalem, with all its holiness, never functioned as a capital in the consciousness or politics of any Arab or Islamic kingdom or entity. Even the Jordanians, who held Jerusalem as occupiers, never made it their capital. They desecrated the places that were holy to Jews and barred us from them. In those days, the Jordanians and the Palestinians, who hadn't yet come up with a name for themselves, marked the Temple Mount on their maps and in their writings as the location of Solomon's Temple, a fact that they now boldly deny as they falsify and rewrite history.

The Palestinian pack of lies, which 22 nations signed on to on Tuesday, continues to grow. They might be transparent lies that are easy to disprove using historical sources, archaeological finds, and even Muslim sources and earlier reports by fairer UNESCO officials such as the late Professor Raymond Lamer. The problem is that when a lie is repeated often enough, it is accepted as truth, and intensifies the Palestinian fight against our very existence here.

Despite the scandalous resolution, Israel and its diplomats gained dramatic ground this time. Yes, 22 countries supported the twisted resolution, but 35 did not: Ten voted against it, including Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and Togo; 22 abstained; and another three nations absented themselves from the vote. Only a year ago, 32 UNESCO member nations supported a similar resolution. Support for Israel or abstention from voting against it has doubled, and spread to Eastern Europe, Africa, and South America.

One of the answers to the UNESCO vote came from two anonymous soldiers on the Temple Mount on Tuesday. They dared to face the Dome of the Rock, standing at attention, and salute the ruined Jewish Temple and the Foundation Stone, and they did so only days after a Muslim mob at the same place had been waving pictures of terrorists and flags of terrorism. The two soldiers were summoned for questioning. I would have given them a citation for courage and integrity, but official Israel is the one that needs to respond -- not only by condemnation, but mainly with a wide-scale renewal of construction in Jerusalem after the years of the deep construction freeze under former U.S. President Barack Obama. (Israel Hayom May 3)

Do US Taxpayers Know That Palestinian Terrorists Are On Their Payroll? By Shmuley Boteach

I wonder what the reaction of steel-workers in Pennsylvania, coal miners in West Virginia, and produce workers in California would be to the news that their tax money is directly funding Palestinian terrorism.

It's been known for some time now that the Palestinian Authority celebrates terrorism and lionizes those who perpetrate it. There was no secret made of the heroic homecoming offered by PA President Mahmoud Abbas to freed Palestinian terrorists in 2013, in which he triumphantly held up the hands of brutal thugs such as Abu Musa Atia, who axed Isaac Rotenberg, a 67-year-old survivor of the Sobibor death camp, to death at a construction site.

As for those terrorists who never made it home, they have streets, schools, parks, and competitions named after them.

Dalal Mughrabi was just 19 when she led the most barbaric and deadly terrorist attack in modern Israeli history, known as the "Coastal Road Massacre," in 1978. Infiltrating Israel by boat, the young woman hijacked a bus and began to systematically murder those inside. As the bus careened

down the highway, Mughrabi and her accomplices threw the corpses of their victims out of the back door of the bus, so as to obstruct the pursuing security forces. By the time police were able to take over the bus and eliminate the terrorists, she had murdered 38 Israelis, among them 13 children, seven of whom were under the age of six.

Her reception in Palestinian government and society was applause and veneration. Two girls' high schools, a computer center, a soccer championship, two summer camps and a public square have been named after her. As it turned out, one of those schools -- a girl's school in Hebron -- is being directly funded by USAID.

But now we've learned something new. The PA does not only celebrate terrorism, but actually funds it. And they do so with American taxpayers' money.

The facts are straightforward. Every year the United States gives nearly half a billion dollars to Abbas and the PA. About four-fifths of that money is used to provide the payroll for Palestinian terrorists who have murdered Israelis and Americans.

Among those murdered in the most recent wave of terrorism was Taylor Force, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and a veteran of both wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist during a visit to Israel. The man who killed him, the 21-year-old Bashar Masalha, was later killed by police. But his family now receives a monthly stipend of \$3,500 -- many times the average monthly Palestinian income -- all courtesy of the PA, and by extension, their American benefactors.

The brutal thug I mentioned earlier, the one who axed a Holocaust survivor to death: he's getting that payment, too.

Forty-two thousand dollars a year.

These payments are not even hidden, rather they're stipulated by Palestinian law. Just last year, Abbas -- who was in Washington yesterday for a meeting with President Donald Trump -- even re-signed this pay-for-slay policy into Palestinian law. The law, moreover, dictates that the deadlier an attack, the richer the reward. The monthly income received by imprisoned terrorists and their families is directly proportional to the length of the prison sentences that they receive in Israeli courts, or -- in other words -- the number of people they manage to maim and kill.

There are currently two Palestinian government bodies, each with special office space and hundreds of civil servants, dedicated to dispersing funds to terrorists and their families. In the past year, these funds allotted \$315 million, or 8% of the PA's total budget, to this twisted system of terrorist welfare.

To put it simply: if you blow up children, disembowel pregnant women, or stab Jews and American tourists to death, you are legally entitled to an official Palestinian government stipend for the rest of your life. And even if you don't survive the attack, your family will thank you. They'll get the money in your stead.

This is all official Palestinian government policy. To call it abhorrent is an understatement. But far worse, it makes every American taxpayer complicit in acts of terrorism.

That this has gone on since the Oslo accords of the 1990s is shocking enough. But even more surprising is how successive American administrations have done nothing to stop it.

But President Trump can.

From Jared Kushner to Steve Bannon, from Jason Greenblatt to David Friedman, Trump has surrounded himself with tremendous friends and defenders of Israel. It's time to cut off funding to the PA unless it immediately takes terrorists off the government payroll.

This is not an American issue, or even a pro-Israel issue, for that matter. On the contrary, it's a moral issue, and it's what the president owes the American people. It's not acceptable to have hard-working Americans send their money to imprisoned killers and the families of suicide bombers.

The reputation of president Barack Obama will forever be stained by the Iran nuclear agreement. Not only because he allowed Iran to keep 6,500 centrifuges when North Korea built its bombs with a third of that number. And not because he did not demand that prior to any deal the murderous mullahs first cease their genocidal incitement against Israel and America.

But because president Obama actually released \$150b. to the terrorist government of Iran knowing full well, and even admitting, that some of that money would be used to murder people in terrorist attacks.

Allowing the Palestinians to do the same, with money that we don't just unfreeze, but actually give them, is simply unforgivable.

Congress, under the lead of Senator Lindsey Graham, and with support of senators Cotton, Cruz and Rubio, among others, is finally taking steps to cut Palestinian funding so long as they directly fund terrorism. It's known as the Taylor Force Act, and it's fitting name. This American hero had his life cut short at the hand of a killer, as have far too many of Israelis.

And, President Trump, after showing incredible leadership on striking at the murderer Assad, we look to you to reverse previous administration's amorality of allowing hard-earned taxpayer money to go to terrorists. (Jerusalem Post May 3)

Oslo Doubled Israel's Terror Toll By Evelyn Gordon

Today is Israel's Memorial Day, which is always marked by the release of official statistics on the number of Israelis killed in wars and terror attacks. If the Trump Administration is serious about wanting to revive an Israeli-Palestinian peace process, reviewing those statistics would be a good place to start. What those numbers show is that Israel's annual death toll from terrorism has more than doubled since it signed its first "peace agreement" with the Palestinians. And that simple fact sheds light on both why the process has consistently failed and what would be necessary to reverse this pattern of failure.

According to the official statistics, more than 3,100 Israelis have been killed in terror attacks since Israel's establishment in 1948. The press releases don't offer any breakdown of this statistic, but more detailed information is available on the Foreign Ministry's website. Those numbers (located here for 1949-99 and here since 2000) show that terrorists killed 1,176 Israelis from 1949 through 1992, a period of 44 years. But since 1994, they've killed another 1,538 people—a significantly larger number of victims in a period just over half as long. (My tally omits the 45 deaths from 1993 because I don't know whether they occurred before or after the Oslo Accord was signed on September 13, 1993, as well as 379 deaths from 1948, most of which took place either prior to or during the War of Independence.)

In other words, prior to the Oslo Accords, the number of terrorist deaths averaged 27 people per year. But in the post-Oslo period, terrorist deaths have averaged 66 people per year—almost two and a half times as many. And the real increase is slightly higher, because the ministry's figures don't include 75 soldiers killed in two wars in Gaza in 2009 and 2014, although they, too, are attributable to the Oslo Accords. Pre-Oslo, Israel didn't fight wars with the Palestinians, because the Palestinians controlled no territory from which to launch a war.

Needless to say, this isn't what a "peace process" is supposed to look like. Peace deals are supposed to produce peace, not to double the number of casualties. Moreover, these casualty figures show that the Palestinians have blatantly violated the one promise they made Israel in both the original Oslo Accord and every subsequent accord—an end to Palestinian terror.

In exchange for that promise, Israel made numerous tangible concessions to the Palestinians: It handed over land (to date, all of Gaza plus about 40 percent of the West Bank), released some 15,000 Palestinian terrorists from Israeli jails (not including the additional prisoners released to ransom Israelis later kidnapped by Palestinian terrorists), provided a revenue stream (about \$130 million a month worth of taxes that Israel collects on the Palestinian Authority's behalf) and solicited other countries to provide the PA with economic and diplomatic support. But the Palestinians failed to deliver the one quid pro quo they were supposed to provide in exchange: an end to terrorism. Instead, terrorism doubled. Is it any wonder that a sizable majority of Israelis have lost faith in the peace process?

No less significant, however, is why this happened. Oslo didn't just fail to prevent Palestinian terror. By providing the Palestinians with several key attributes of sovereignty, it actually enabled it. One of the most significant concessions was the control of territory, where terrorists could arm themselves, train, and organize attacks with impunity. That's precisely why terror in the West Bank surged dramatically in the first decade after Oslo but began falling again after the Israel Defense Forces reasserted security control over the area in 2002. It's also why terror from Gaza rose sharply after Israel withdrew all its troops from that territory in 2005.

A corollary of this territorial control is financial control: Both the PA in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza have independent revenue streams from taxation in the territories they govern, on top of the generous donations both receive from various foreign governments. And both have used this revenue to incentivize and/or directly fund terror. The PA, for instance, incentivizes terror by spending millions of dollars a year on paying above-market salaries to convicted terrorists in Israeli jails. The more murderous the attack, the higher the salary. And Hamas spends millions of dollars building rockets and tunnels with which to attack Israel, even as claims it doesn't have money to pay for fuel for Gaza's power plant, with the result that Gaza residents are down to fewer than eight hours a day of electricity.

Another corollary—one that is no less important—is control of the education system and media. Both the PA and Hamas use their schools and media outlets to indoctrinate their children to believe that Israelis are evil people with no connection to the land and no rights to a state. To quote the textbook monitoring organization Impact-SE, Palestinian textbooks promote the "demonization of Israel and Jews, including the characterization of Israel as an evil entity that should be annihilated." These messages are then reinforced, as Palestinian Media Watch has demonstrated, by "educational" programs on official Palestinian television stations that demonize Jews as "monkeys and pigs," "enemies of Allah," the "most evil of creations," and so forth. Such indoctrination obviously encourages anti-Israel terror.

Thus, absent a real change in the way both Palestinian governments educate their children, spend their budgets and otherwise utilize their governmental powers, any further Israeli territorial concessions would lead to nothing but more bloodshed. Consequently, any "peace process" worth the name must focus on producing such changes, rather than sticking to the old,

failed pattern of simply demanding ever more Israeli concessions.

Granted, extorting more Israeli concessions takes a lot less time than changing Palestinian attitudes. But the former has yet to produce anything but more names on the annual Memorial Day rolls. The latter might have a chance of someday producing genuine peace. (CommentaryMagazine.com May 1)

'Six Knocks,' And A Seventh By Moshe Dann

On Independence Day, 1956, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, "the Rav," wrote Kol Dodi Dofek ("Listen – My Beloved Knocks") in which he sought to place the Jews' return to their homeland into perspective; it could not have been, he concluded, the result of coincidence or luck.

The Rav referred to a tragic parable in the Song of Songs in which a lover knocks on his beloved's door one night, but she tells him she is tired and he should come back the next day. When he does not return, she searches for him but realizes that he is gone forever and that she has missed her chance for love. Today, when Jews in Israel are threatened by many enemies throughout the world, even assisted by some Jews, the Rav urges us to ignore their message of despair, self-doubt and defeatism.

When published, the Rav's essay ran to 60 pages. I have highlighted its main points, added a few contemporary details, and included an additional "knock" to make the sound clearer.

1. The first knock of the Beloved (God) was when, despite the antagonism between the West and the Soviet Union, both recognized the legitimacy of a Jewish state. The United Nations came into being solely in order to facilitate that right, on November 29, 1947, and confirmed it by recognizing the State of Israel in May, 1948. A year later, Israel was accepted as a member of the United Nations.

2. Following the establishment of the State of Israel, the second knock was on the battlefield, when the small IDF defeated the mighty armies of five Arab countries. Using the analogy of the Exodus from Egypt – when Pharaoh hardened his heart and ended up with a worse deal than was originally offered to him – the Rav considers the Arab attack a blessing in disguise. Had the Arabs accepted the UN partition plan and not attacked, Israel would have had to settle for a state which excluded Jerusalem, half of the Galilee and part of the Negev including Beersheba. It could not have survived.

3. The third knock was on the theological tent. Christian theologians claim that God deprived the Jewish People of its rights in the Land of Israel, and that all the biblical promises regarding Zion and Jerusalem refer, allegorically, to Christianity and the Christian Church; this is refuted by the establishment of the State of Israel. Christianity declared that the Jewish covenant with God ended with Jesus – that is the real meaning of the term "Old Testament" – and declared themselves to be the "new" Israel. The powerlessness of Jews throughout the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern period reinforced this impression.

4. The fourth knock was in the hearts of perplexed and assimilated youths. The era of self-concealment (during the Holocaust) resulted in great confusion among Jews, particularly among young Jews, and produced widespread assimilation. The almost mystical ability of even a brief visit to the State of Israel to restore the Jewish identities of even the most alienated Jewish youth is the stuff of which legends are made.

5. The fifth knock, perhaps the most important of all, is that for the first time in the history of our exile, divine providence has surprised our enemies with the sensational discovery that Jewish blood is not free for the taking, is not hefer! The raid on Entebbe, on July 4, 1976, serves as the most visible and potent reminder of the consequences of treating Jewish lives with callous disregard. In this context, the Rav also cautions against substituting the promises of "the three great powers" (i.e., the US, USSR and Great Britain) for vigilance and self-defense. "A people that cannot ensure its own freedom and security is not truly independent."

6. The sixth knock was when the gates of the Land of Israel were opened. A Jew fleeing from a hostile country knows that he can find a secure refuge in the Israel. And Jews who leave their comfortable, convenient environments to make aliya share in the redemptive power of Eretz Yisrael.

As Rabbi Yissachar Shlomo Teichtal wrote in his book Eim HaBanim Smeicha, while hiding from the Nazis in Hungary: "The Land of Israel will become a universal center for the entire Jewish nation ... Even those Jews who remain in the Diaspora ... will be bound and connected with all their souls to the universal center which will be established in Eretz Yisrael ... and they will no longer be considered dispersed...."

This is a reference to the building of the Third Jewish Commonwealth in Eretz Yisrael.

7. The revival and flourishing of Torah learning throughout the world, and especially in Israel, the military victories of 1967 and 1973, the unification of Jerusalem, the flourishing of the Golan, and building Jewish communities throughout Yehuda and Shomron (Judea and Samaria) are among many "knocks" that resound around us. We have so much for which to be proud and thankful.

The art of listening is knowing what is worthwhile and what is not. "Shema Yisrael" – let our ears be open to hear, our eyes to see, and our hearts to appreciate with gratitude. (Jerusalem Post May 2)