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ISRAEL, IRAN, U.S. *The Coming Crisis ... Is Here*



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MEANWHILE...

Editorial

Obama, Kerry Threaten Israel's Security by Linking "Peace Process" and Geneva P5+1 Negotiations with Iran

FREDERICK KRANTZ

As the U.S. and the UN P5+1 foreign ministers resume negotiations in Geneva with Iran over its nuclear status, Israel's fate hangs in the balance. The fix seems to be in—Obama clearly is ready to make an interim deal with Teheran "moderates", one which Israel's Netanyahu (seconded, *mirabile dictu*, by the Saudis) has already clearly denounced as a sell-out.

(The French foreign minister's surprising withdrawal from what he terms a "con game" is being carried by the media—but will this opposition be enough to derail the deal?)

I examined recently Foreign Secretary Kerry's odd nine-month ultimatum-limit for an agreement with Abbas and the Palestinians, and related it to the growing crisis over Teheran's rapidly accelerating nuclear program.

It already was clear that containment, alluded to both by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Hagel Obama, and not military intervention, was Obama's decided policy.

I concluded that what was really at stake, then, between Jerusalem and Washington, was not direct U.S. military action, but the U.S. stance towards Israel if *Israel* in fact acted against an Iranian nuclear capacity. In other words, a threatened U.S. lining-up with the already-negative European Union states, increasing delegitimation campaign against Israel.

Such a threat would also explain another mystery, Prime Minister Netanyahu's sudden caving in to U.S. Secretary of State Kerry's pressure both to agree to resume negotiations with the hostile Palestinians, and—despite almost unanimously negative Israeli public opinion—to release up to 104 convicted Palestinian terrorist murderers, as an unreciprocated initial concession.

My earlier analysis has now been borne out by a series of statements Kerry recently made: in Rome with Netanyahu at the end of October, then while he was in Jerusalem, Ramallah (wearing a green tie!) and Jordan, and finally in a joint Israeli-Palestinian television interview just before the resumption of the Geneva P5+1 negotiations with Iran.

In all these venues, Kerry repeatedly threatened Israel, but not the Palestinians, with dire consequences were the peace talks to break down.

Kerry clearly warned that failure of the peace process risked European political and economic marginalization of Israel (and, implicitly, U.S. support for it), and would also create a third Palestinian intifada. In the TV interview, Kerry came down hard on Israel, urging it to end its West Bank "settlements" and "perpetual military occupation" of Judea and Samaria, and explicitly noting that a direct consequence of the talks' failure "will be an increasing campaign of delegitimization of Israel that has been taking place in an international basis".

In all these remarks, there were no strictures against Palestinian obduracy, the PA's antisemitic media propaganda, refusal to relinquish insistence on "the right of return", or to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. (Indeed, so unbalanced were his remarks that one observer wondered if he had become Abbas's Foreign Minister.)

Obama now is seen by Israel (and by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states) as having compromised his clear pledge that there would never be an Iranian nuclear weapon (just as he reneged on his "red line" post-poison gas attacks commitment to bomb Syria). Instead, he and Kerry—once again in concert with Russia—have rushed into direct negotiations with the mul-lacratid dictatorship, and actively cooperated with Iranian President Rouhani's diplomatic "charm" campaign.

(Details leaking out of Geneva indicate a first-stage deal which would see Teheran cease production of 90% (and perhaps 20%) enriched uranium but continue refining 3% uranium and bomb-grade plutonium [while the heavy-

Continued on page 10

The Festival of Joy Hannukah 5774

BARUCH COHEN

In Loving Memory of Malca z'l

The waves of hatred that we are witnessing today against not only Israel, but also the Jewish People generally, call us to ensure that history must *never* repeat itself.

By welcoming this year the holiday of *Hannukah 5774*, we are celebrating the victory of the Maccabees against the brutal forces of the Syrian King, Antiochus IV, who defiled the Temple in Jerusalem.

Today, we Diaspora Jews are on the front line along, with the people of Israel, in calling for our brothers and sisters the world over to ensure that our fight against darkness and hate will prevail.

We must never, ever let history repeat itself.

HOD AVINU CHAI!: The greatness our history, of our forefathers, lives!

HAG HANNUKAH SAMEACH!

A Happy *Hannukah* to all our CIJR friends, and to the entire Jewish People!

(Baruch Cohen, who turned 94 in October, is Research Chairman of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, and a member of the Holocaust Memorial Center.)

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We welcome your letters, comments and materials, which can be faxed or e-mailed (see cover.)

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WEEKLY QUOTES

“There was unity. But Iran couldn’t take it at that particular moment; they weren’t able to accept that particular agreement,” — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, commenting on the failure to reach a nuclear agreement with Iran in Geneva last weekend (Nov. 9-10). (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 11, 2013)

[It’s a] **“fool’s game”** world powers risked being sucked into by Iran — warned France’s foreign minister Laurent Fabius at the nuclear talks last weekend in Geneva. That resistance helped upend a landmark deal that would have offered Iran some relief from punishing international sanctions in return for suspending elements of its nuclear program. (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 12, 2013)

“We hope that France will not weaken... We salute (Hollande’s) consistent and determined position on the Iranian issue.” — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told *Le Figaro* daily in an interview. Nuclear negotiations with Iran are set to resume in Geneva Nov. 20-22 (*Ha’aretz*, Nov. 16, 2013)

“For the first time in nearly a decade we are getting close to [reaching agreement on] the first step towards a comprehensive agreement that would stop Iran’s nuclear program from advancing, and put time on the clock to reach a negotiated agreement that addresses all of our concerns,” — a senior U.S. administration official told journalists. Under the P5+1 proposed deal that six world powers and Iran will meet again to discuss next week in Geneva, Iran would agree to halt the expansion of its nuclear program for six months. In exchange, Iran would receive under \$10 billion in sanctions relief, including about \$3 billion in hard currency assets frozen in banks abroad. (*Al-Monitor*, Nov. 16, 2013)

“The alternative to getting back to the talks is the potential of chaos. I mean does Israel want a third intifada?” — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, using the term for past Palestinian uprisings against Israel. Kerry added **“If we do not find a way to find peace, there will be an increasing isolation of Israel. There will be an increasing campaign of de-legitimization of Israel (that) has been taking place in an international basis,”** he said. **“What is the alternative to peace?...Prolonged continued conflict.”** (*Montreal Gazette*, Nov. 7, 2013)

“It cannot be that the Palestinians are forever pampered by the international community...it’s time that the international community, certainly the serious members of the international community, understand this is a two-way street, because peace is not a one-way street and it won’t be. — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in an address to Jewish leaders from North America. He added **“If the Palestinians expect us to recognize a Palestinian state for Palestinian people, they must recognize a Jewish state for Jewish people...Cold peace is better than hot war, but I’m hoping for warm peace,”** (*Times of Israel*, Nov. 10, 2013)

“I say, with all the details available about Yasser Arafat’s death, that he was killed, and that Israel killed him,” — former Palestinian intelligence chief Tawfik Tirawi. Tirawi called Israel the **“first, fundamental and only suspect,”** and added [without any proof] that Israel had the technical means and the motive. (*New York Post*, Nov. 8, 2013)

SHORT TAKES

AFGHANISTAN ATTACK: SUICIDE BOMBING NEAR KABUL COMPOUND — (Kabul) At least 10 people have been killed and more than 20 injured in a suicide bomb attack in the Afghan capital, Kabul. The bomb went off near a compound where tribal elders are expected to gather next week to discuss a security pact with the U.S. Although no group has said it was behind the blast, correspondents say suspicion is likely to fall on the Taliban, which opposes the foreign military presence in Afghanistan. (*BBC*, Nov, 16)

SYRIAN KURDS CARVE OUT ZONE OF CONTROL, DRIVING OUT JIHADIS — (Damascus) Syria’s Kurds have dramatically strengthened their hold on the far northeast reaches of the country, carving out territory as they drive out Islamic militant fighters allied to the rebellion and declaring their own civil administration in areas under their control this week amid the chaos of the civil war. The moves could be a first step toward creating an autonomous region similar to one Kurds run across the border as virtually a separate country within Iraq. (*Washington Post*, Nov. 14, 2013)

EGYPT HOSTS TOP RUSSIAN OFFICIALS, A SIGN IT IS TURNING FURTHER AWAY FROM ALLIANCE WITH U.S. — (Cairo) Egypt edged further away from its traditional place within the U.S. sphere of influence Thursday, hosting Russia’s foreign and defense ministers in the

highest-level talks between the two countries in years. The visit, which included discussions on strengthening military ties and diplomatic efforts on Syria, challenged the U.S. position as Egypt’s primary benefactor and was seen as a diplomatic swipe at Cairo’s increasingly estranged Western ally. (*Washington Post*, Nov. 15, 2013)

GERMANY TO FORM TASK FORCE ON LOOTED ART— (Munich) After an avalanche of criticism at home and abroad, the German government announced late Monday, Nov. 11, it will establish a task force to investigate, “as quickly and as transparently as possible,” the provenance of a cache of more than 1,400 artworks that are suspected of being traded or looted during the Nazis’ reign and that are now in the hands of authorities in Bavaria. (*New York Times*, Nov. 11, 2013)

IDF TREATS HUNDREDS IN PHILIPPINES — (Bogo) Since the IDF delegation to the Philippines landed last Thursday, the unit has treated over 370 wounded — 150 of them children — in a hospital in the city of Bogo. IDF doctors at Bogo’s hospital have performed operations, used advanced medical equipment, and overseen 5 births. Typhoon Heiyan, which hammered the Philippines last week, has been estimated to have killed up to 10,000 people and has left hundreds of thousands wounded or missing. (*Arutz Sheva*, Nov. 16, 2013)



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif, and E.U. foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton attend a meeting of the P5+1 members at the UN headquarters during the United Nations General Assembly.

KERRY'S UNBALANCED REMARKS REFLECT OBAMA'S PRO-PALESTINIAN TILT

Letter to Secretary John Kerry

AMB. ALAN BAKER

To: The Hon. James Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State,
November 8, 2013,

After listening to you declare repeatedly over the past weeks that “Israel’s settlements are illegitimate”, I respectfully wish to state, unequivocally, that you are mistaken and ill advised, both in law and in fact. Pursuant to the “Oslo Accords”, and specifically the Israel-Palestinian Interim Agreement (1995), the “issue of settlements” is one of subjects to be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations... Your statements serve to not only to prejudice this negotiating issue, but also to undermine the integrity of that agreement, as well as the very negotiations that you so enthusiastically advocate. Your determination that Israel’s settlements are illegitimate cannot be legally substantiated. The oft-quoted prohibition on transferring population into occupied territory (Art. 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention) was, according to the International Committee Red Cross’s own official commentary of that convention, drafted in 1949 to prevent the forced, mass transfer of populations carried out by the Nazis in the Second World War. It was never intended to apply to Israel’s settlement activity. Attempts by the international community to attribute this article to Israel emanate from clear partisan motives, with which you, and the U.S. are now identifying.

The formal applicability of that convention to the disputed territories cannot be claimed since they were not occupied from a prior, legitimate sovereign power. The territories cannot be defined as “Palestinian territories” or, as you yourself frequently state, as “Palestine”. No such entity exists, and the whole purpose of the permanent status negotiation is to determine, by agreement, the status of the territory, to which Israel has a legitimate claim, backed by international legal and historic rights. How can you presume to undermine this negotiation?

There is no requirement in any of the signed agreements between Israel and the Palestinians that Israel cease, or freeze settlement activity. The opposite is in fact the case...

By your repeating this ill-advised determination that Israel’s settlements are illegitimate, and by your threatening Israel with a “third Palestinian intifada” and international isolation and delegitimization... and exerting unfair pressure on Israel... insist[ing] on a false and unrealistic time limit to the negotiation... you are taking sides, thereby prejudicing your own personal credibility, as well as that of the US...

(Alan Baker, Israel’s former Ambassador to Canada, is Director of the Institute for Contemporary Affairs, of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs)

No Illusions Concerning the Obama Administration

ISI LEIBLER

Israel is heading for what could be its most severe confrontation with the United States, despite reassuring words from the Obama administration to the contrary. President Barack Obama’s policies have led to a U.S. retreat at all levels in the global arena, particularly in the Middle East where his disastrous policy of “engaging” with rogue states coincided with alienating, even abandoning, traditional U.S. allies like Egypt and Saudi Arabia [and] totally fail[ing] to mitigate the rampant bloodshed, with hundreds of civilians being killed daily in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the Arab world.

However, despite all evidence to the contrary, the administration persists in its mantra that the principal problem in the Middle East is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and displays a determination to impose a settlement on Israelis and Palestinians. It does so... despite the fact that the

undemocratic Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, whose term expired years ago, is neither willing nor has the authority to make any meaningful concessions to Israel.

The U.S. chooses to disregard the extreme intransigence of the Palestinians and the massive ongoing incitement by the PA against Israel and continues to pressure the Israelis, their only regional democratic ally, to make additional unilateral concessions, many



John Kerry in Tel Aviv

of which have long-term negative security implications...

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry presents himself as a “friend” of Israel. Yet his offensive off-the-cuff remarks not only depict him as somewhat of a buffoon, but demonstrate that he now openly sides against Israel in the confrontation with the Palestinians...

Following a meeting in Bethlehem with President Abbas... Kerry stated unequivocally “President Abbas is 100% committed to these talks.” He reiterated that the U.S. considers construction in settlements, including Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem, to be “illegitimate,” and went so far as to state that Israel was sending “a message that perhaps you are not really serious.” He never even referred to the PA demand that Palestinian refugees and their 5 million descendants be given the right of return to Israel. He refused to confront the Palestinian leadership over their refusal to reconcile themselves with the reality of Israel as sovereign Jewish entity...

These statements by Kerry parallel other negative vibes from the U.S.: Obama’s failure to condemn Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s provocative anti-Semitic remarks... and, most damaging of all, despite deliberate Israeli silence over the issue, the formal U.S. announcement that Israel was responsible for bombing the Syrian military base in which missiles en route to Hezbollah were located. That is not how one treats an ally...

(Jerusalem Post, Nov. 10, 2013)

Obama Turns on Israel

DANIEL PIPES

Barack Obama's March 2013 trip to Israel had a too-good-to-be-true feel about it. While barely pressuring Israel, he instructed Palestinians not to set preconditions for negotiations and admonished them to "recognize that Israel will be a Jewish state." It felt out of character, suggesting a price to be paid later.

Well, that price has now, eight months later, been revealed, and it has two components. If I might paraphrase the U.S. position as presented to Israel: "First, sit by quietly as we reach an accord with Tehran that freezes but does not dismantle its nuclear buildup. Second, stop the illegitimate residential construction on the West Bank or the Palestinian Authority will, with American acquiescence, start a third intifada."

Israeli responses to the two demands have been stark, blunt unlike anything in memory. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blasted the prospective Iran deal as a "monumental mistake" and after meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry warned that "no deal is better than a bad deal"... Economy and commerce minister Naftali Bennett was even more direct, raising the prospect of an Iranian nuclear bomb destroying New York City...

Like in a boxing match, Iran's regime is currently on the floor. The count is just seconds away from ten. Now is the time to step up the pressure and force Iran to dismantle its nuclear program. Not to let it up. It would be dangerous to lift the sanctions and accept a deal which allows Iran to retain its entire uranium-production line.

The Right Response to an Iranian Nuclear Freeze

MAX BOOT

It is widely rumored that French objections prevented agreement on what would have been a bad deal with Iran at the Geneva talks this weekend. If so, I join my colleagues who have already written on the subject in a heart-felt Vive la France! But the negotiations, while interrupted, have not ended. They are due to resume November 20. The question is what offer the P5+1 (i.e., the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany) will put on the table next time.

This time around, the U.S. was apparently dangling the carrot of giving the mullahs access to tens of billions of dollars in Iranian funds frozen in Western banks and lifting some existing sanctions. Iran, its economy rapidly deteriorating, desperately needs access to those reserves. In return, however, Iran was apparently not willing to give up its supposed "right" to enrich uranium—i.e., its ability to maintain breakout capacity to make a nuclear weapon on short notice. Nor, if the leaks are to be believed, was Iran willing to stop construction on a new plutonium heavy-water reactor at Arak, which gives it another path to the bomb.

The fact that Iran was not willing to take what the French foreign minister called a "sucker's deal" shows just how committed it is to the nuclear program and how hard it will be to achieve meaningful results in these talks.

The debate now in Washington is what to do about further sanctions. Many voices in and out of Congress argue for enacting even tougher sanctions on Iranian finances that would effectively col-

lapse the value of Iran's currency. That certainly makes more sense than prematurely lifting existing sanctions. But Washington doesn't have to do either.

If Iran is serious about a nuclear freeze, then the appropriate response is not a dismantlement of sanctions—that should only occur if Iran renounces its "right" of enrichment and begins to dismantle its nuclear program. The appropriate response to Iran verifiably stopping work on building a nuclear weapon should be the U.S. and its allies stopping to work on enacting further sanctions.

The threat of more sanctions being enacted by Congress should serve as an effective cudgel to win minimal concessions from the Iranians, assuming they are serious about getting a deal. And delaying the enactment of these additional sanctions costs little—whereas giving Iran access to frozen assets and partially lifting existing sanctions is a gift of inestimable value to the Islamic Republic. Such a concession, which would be hard to reverse, should be traded only for something more substantial than a temporary pause in the Iranian nuclear program.

(Commentary, Nov. 11, 2013)



Illustration (c) The Jewish Press, 2013

THE LONG, SORDID RECORD OF U.S.'S IRANIAN-NUCLEAR POLICY

THE PROCESS

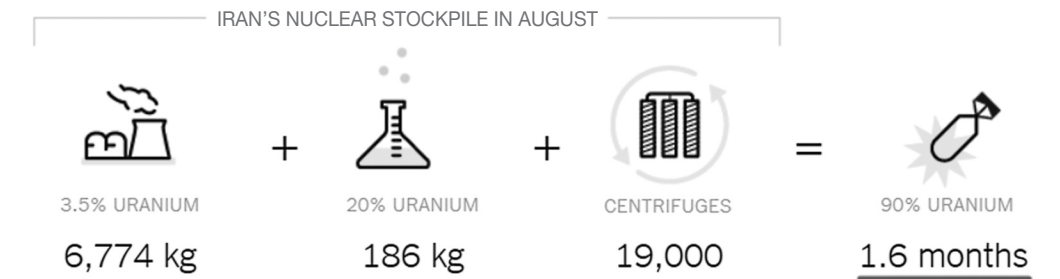
Iran has the technology and material to produce fuel for power or a weapon



IRANIAN CAPABILITIES

Iran could quickly move to a nuclear “breakout.”

Iran today has enough enriched uranium and centrifuges to produce fuel for a weapon – a nuclear breakout – in one to two months, according to a study by the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington-based group that has been skeptical of Iran’s peaceful claims. Despite Iran’s ability to produce fuel quickly, according to the study, it would take additional time to make a reliable warhead for a missile.



(Sergio Peçanha, *Institute for Science and International Security*, 2013)

1978, Jan. — The U.S. and Iran initiate a nuclear agreement (with Iran agreeing to safety protocols exceeding NPT requirements).

1979, Nov. 14 — the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Tehran Hostage crisis prompt Jimmy Carter to impose sanctions freezing Iranian assets (\$12 billion) and bar importation of goods and services from Iran. The U.S. ceases supplying Iran with highly enriched uranium for the Tehran Research Reactor.

1981 — The U.S. signs an accord with Iran; the embargo is lifted and a considerable portion of the assets are released.

1984, Jan. — Iranian involvement in bombing of U.S. Military base in Beirut causes the U.S. to impose additional sanctions on the sale of arms to Iran, and to oppose loans to Iran.

1987, Oct. — Ronald Reagan issues an executive order which bars the import/export of goods and services to and from Iran.

1992, Oct. 23 — *Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act* imposes sanctions on entities contributing to Tehran’s development of “chemical, biological, nuclear... [and] advanced conventional weapons.”

1995, April 30 — *Executive Order 12959* is signed by Bill Clinton. The order bars U.S. businesses from investing in Iranian oil and gas, as well as imposing a wholesale ban on U.S.-Iran trade.

1996 — *Iran and Libya Sanctions Act* creates sanctions against investment in Iran’s energy market (including non-U.S. investors). No penalties have yet been imposed on non-U.S. firms (though some such firms have cut back on their Iranian operations).

2005 — Iran announces that it will resume uranium enrichment.

2006 — Sanctions against Libya are terminated; *Iran Sanctions Act* revised (this is the basis of all present U.S. sanctions).

2007, Oct — Bank Melli, Bank Mellat, and Bank Saderat are sanctioned variously for being involved in Iranian proliferation activities, and financing terrorist organizations like Hezbollah.

2006-2008 — International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports force the UN to demand that Iran cease enrichment and reprocessing, and eventually impose sanctions against supplying nuclear-related material and technology to Iran. Over the next two years, UN-driven asset freezes are expanded, and arms embargos are imposed and strengthened.

2008, Sept. — The UN Security Council orders Iran to cease enrichment activities. This order, like all previous resolutions, is disregarded by Iran.

2010, June 9 — Continuing reports from the IAEA push the UN to craft *Resolution 1929* which expands asset freezes, while encouraging cargo inspections of Iranian ships, and tightening restrictions on financial institutions. The EU follows the U.S. in imposing restrictions on financial institutions.

2010, July — The Obama administration issues *H.R. 2194* (“*Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestments Act*”) which seeks to penalize both U.S. and non-U.S. companies who sell refined gasoline or related equipment to Iran (China and Russia oppose the act). *CISADA* revoked certain exceptions to existing import bans, and extensively prohibited interactions with Iran’s financial institutions. The Post Bank of Iran is added to the U.S. Treasury’s list of banks involved in proliferation; it is the 16th bank to be thus isolated from the financial community.

2011 — The U.S. imposes further restrictions on equipment relating to oil and chemical processing industries. An IAEA report declares that Iran “has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device” (Yukiya Amano).

2012, July 1 — The EU begins its embargo of Iranian oil exports - European oil imports from Iran drop by half, to 1.25 million barrels daily. By the end of the year oil revenues (once saved by the rise in barrel price) drop to their lowest level in 3 years;

exports hit their lowest level in 26 years.

2013, Jan. 9 — Iranian Central bank recognizes an inflation rate of 27% (the highest officially recognized number so far). Iranian oil minister recognizes for the first time that sanctions cost the country \$4-8 billion dollars per month.

2013, April — The IMF predicts a drop of 1.3 % in Iran’s GDP, contributing to the 1.9% decrease in 2012.

2013, May — European oil imports from Iran drop to 700,000 barrels per day.

2013, June, 31 — The U.S. adopts sanctions designed to weaken the rial currency (the first set of such sanctions).

2013, Aug. 3 — Hassan Rouhani one of the officially backed candidates, assumes the Iranian presidency with the support of pro-reform Iranians who hope for economic improvement. Rouhani, a regime insider, is permitted by Ayatollah Khamenei to negotiate with the West over specific issues in the hopes of achieving economic relief.

2013, Nov. — Initial nuclear negotiations in Geneva, led by Secretary of State John Kerry, end without agreement. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius calls the U.S.-backed agreement “a sucker’s deal.” Israel’s Minister of Strategic Affairs Yuval Steinitz claims that the deal would cripple the effectiveness of sanctions (a 40% reduction, or, about \$40 billion). Israel and France face backlash from the international media. Republican officials describe John Kerry’s Senate briefing on the nuclear deal as “fairly anti-Israel.” Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif says: “Any agreement that does not recognize the rights of the Iranian people [to enrich uranium]... has no chance.” Iran’s enrichment activities continue uncurbed.

2013, Nov. 20 — Negotiations set to resume in Geneva.

(Timeline by CIJR Archivist Langford Conway)

MUNICH AND GENEVA: THE DAY OBAMA'S MAGIC DIED

Munich and Geneva

HAROLD M. WALLER

Munich and Geneva: two cities, not all that far apart. One's name lives in infamy, an infamy that does not diminish, even after 75 years. The other is now home to the United Nations Human Rights Council, about as Orwellian a name as one can imagine. Invocation of either name penetrates the Jewish consciousness. But in our time Geneva is taking on new significance. It is the site of the current negotiations between six leading states (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) and Iran in regard to the attempt to arrest Iran's progress toward nuclear weaponry in exchange for relaxation of the current sanctions against Tehran. U.S. President Barack Obama has taken the lead on behalf of the P5+1, as the six states are known.

One must always be wary about using historical analogies, especially if one is not an historian. Still, the temptation remains, bearing in mind that no two sets of circumstances can be identical. What is the essence of what Munich represents? Essentially the Munich conference of 1938 was an attempt to resolve Germany's demand to add the German-speaking part of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland, to the Greater Reich. The Czech government, unsurprisingly, was opposed. Since Czechoslovakia had an army and alliances with Britain and France, the German demand, backed by Hitler's threat of force, created a situation that could easily have led to the outbreak of war. However, neither Britain nor France, both still recovering from their horrific losses during World War I, had the will to fight to help Czechoslovakia defend itself against dismemberment. Consequently they agreed to attend a conference with Germany and Italy to try to resolve the problem. Notably, Czechoslovakia, the country most affected, was not invited to the conference.

When the Obama Magic Died

FOUAD AJAMI

The current troubles of the Obama presidency can be read back into its beginnings. Rule by personal charisma has met its proper fate. The spell has been broken, and the magician stands exposed. We need no pollsters to tell us of the loss of faith in Mr. Obama's policies—and, more significantly, in the man himself. Charisma is like that. Crowds come together and they project their needs onto an imagined redeemer. The redeemer leaves the crowd to its imagination: For as long as the charismatic moment lasts—a year, an era—the redeemer is above and beyond judgment. He glides through crises, he knits together groups of varied, often clashing, interests. Always there is that magical moment, and its beauty, as a reference point.

Mr. Obama gave voice to this sentiment in a speech on Nov. 6 in Dallas: "Sometimes I worry because everybody had such a fun experience in '08, at least that's how it seemed in retrospect. And, 'yes we can,' and the slogans and the posters, et cetera, sometimes I worry that people forget change in this country has always been hard." It's a pity we can't stay in that moment, says the redeemer: The fault lies in the country itself—everywhere, that is, except in the magician's performance.

Forgive the personal reference, but from the very beginning of Mr. Obama's astonishing rise, I felt that I was witnessing something

As we all know, Britain and France agreed to Hitler's terms, leaving the Czech government no option but to acquiesce in its country's dismemberment. One of the legacies of the conference was the permanent opprobrium that we now attach to the term *appeasement*, of which Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was so proud upon his triumphant return to Britain.

What does all this have to do with today's Geneva? Clearly the parallels are not exact. Yet the state that is most concerned about threats to its security from Iranian nuclearization is not represented at Geneva. For years Israel has been threatened with a nuclear attack by several elements in the Iranian leadership. Israel's government has made its views known, stressing that its security will be at immediate risk if Iran gets the bomb, unlike the members of the P5+1. Quite understandably Israel demands that Iran be deprived of its capability to break out to the possession of nuclear weapons. Yet the negotiators at Geneva appear to be prepared to relax the sanctions in exchange for very little from Iran. Most notably, by all accounts Iran is not being subjected to a demand to relinquish its enrichment capability and terminate its heavy water reactor project. As long as it retains the enrichment capacity, its ability to move quickly to weaponization remains a powerful threat. Preventing that must be the key point of the negotiations.

Have the international leaders, especially President Obama, who heads the most powerful military establishment, learned something from Munich? Or will they choose to avoid a confrontation with Iran now, even though such a confrontation might become inescapable later on? As we watch anxiously from the sidelines we must demand that ultimately Israel not be compelled to demonstrate that it is not Czechoslovakia, and that the name of Geneva will not become inextricably tied to that of Munich.

*(Prof. Harold Waller, Pol. Sci., McGill U.,
is a CIJR Academic Fellow)*

old and familiar. My advantage owed nothing to any mastery of American political history. I was guided by my immersion in the political history of the Arab world and of a life studying Third World societies.

In 2008, seeing the Obama crowds in Portland, Denver and St. Louis spurred memories of the spectacles that had attended the rise and fall of Arab political pretenders. I had lived through the era of the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdul Nasser. He had emerged from a military cabal to become a demigod, immune to judgment. His followers clung to him even as he led the Arabs to a catastrophic military defeat in the Six Day War of 1967. He issued a kind of apology for his performance. But his reign was never about policies and performance. It was about political magic.

In trying to grapple with, and write about, the Obama phenomenon, I found guidance in a book of breathtaking erudition, *Crowds and Power* (1962) by the Nobel laureate Elias Canetti. Born in Bulgaria in 1905 and educated in Vienna and Britain, Canetti was unmatched in his understanding of the passions, and the delusions, of crowds. The crowd is a "mysterious and universal phenomenon," he writes. It forms where there was nothing before. There comes a moment when "all who belong to the crowd get rid of their difference and feel equal." Density gives the illusion of equality, a blessed moment when "no one is greater or better than another." But the crowd also has a presentiment of its own disintegration, a time when those who belong to the crowd "creep back under their private burdens." →

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN?

Iran and Nuclear Negotiations

MACHLA ABRAMOVITZ

Despite being offered what U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called “The deal of the century,” Iran backed out of the Geneva deal. “The P5+1 was unified on Saturday when we presented our proposal to the Iranians... But Iran couldn’t take it. At that particular moment they weren’t able to accept,” said Kerry.

Why the surprise? This would not have been the first time the U.S. and the Europeans found themselves at the brink of an agreement only to be rebuffed by Iran. In fact, in 2006, President George W. Bush believed that the U.S. was on the verge of signing what he called “a grand bargain” with Iran, that called for stopping Teheran’s uranium enrichment in exchange for the easing of sanctions and the release of blocked Iranian assets.

In 2006, rather than ratcheting up support for a military strike against Iran, as many of Bush’s critics maintained, Bush was, in fact, rigorously and secretly pursuing a negotiated settlement with Iran.

Only months earlier, in 2005, Iran had agreed to a deal with Britain, France and Germany that would have obligated it to give up all its centrifuges in exchange for economic benefits.

Reaching a deal with Iran became a top priority for President Bush, who assigned this task to Rice. Working through the Swiss, the U.S. approached Chief Iran nuclear negotiator Ali Larajani who took over from Hassan Rouhani in 2005. On May 3, 2006, Rice would publicly announce,

“We are agreed with our European partners on the essential elements of a package... Iran suspends its enrichments and reprocessing activities, the U.S. will place [its proposal] on the table with our EU colleagues and meet with Iran’s representatives.” This would have been the first time that the Americans agreed to meet with the Iranians since 1979, when all official diplomatic relations were severed.

Throughout the summer, both public and secret negotiations between the U.S. and Iran continued back and forth, Solana travelling to Tehran with further incentives. Iran, in turn, submitted its counter proposals through China, Russia, France, Germany, Britain and Switzerland. Iran’s ambassador to Switzerland stated that a final reply would not be forthcoming before August. By September, the moderates appeared to have won out. Larijani contacted Solana informing him that Iran was prepared to sign.

In the U.S., matters quickly went into high gear. The plan called for Larijani and Solana to meet at the Waldorf Astoria in NYC just prior to the convening of the September 19th UN General Assembly. Convinced it was a done deal, Rice and Burns [flew to New York in Sept.]

Larijani and his entourage, however, never made it to New York. Their plane never took off, arriving instead was the plane carrying President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for a hate-filled rant at the UN General Assembly.

Rice and Burns would remain in New York for the next few days hoping against hope that Larijani and company would eventually show up. Unfortunately, that never happened.

(Machla Abramovitz is an Assistant Editor at CIJR)

Five years on, we can still recall how the Obama coalition was formed. There were the African-Americans justifiably proud of one of their own. There were upper-class white professionals who were drawn to the candidate’s “cool.” There were Latinos swayed by the promise of immigration reform. The white working class in the Rust Belt was the last bloc to embrace Mr. Obama—he wasn’t one of them, but they put their reservations aside during an economic storm and voted for the redistributive state and its protections. There were no economic or cultural bonds among this coalition. There was the new leader, all things to all people.

A nemesis awaited the promise of this new presidency: Mr. Obama would turn out to be among the most polarizing of American leaders. No, it wasn’t his race, as Harry Reid would contend, that stirred up the opposition to him. It was his exalted views of himself, and his mission. The sharp lines were sharp between those who raised his banners and those who objected to his policies.

America holds presidential elections, we know. But Mr. Obama took his victory as a plebiscite...

A leader who set out to remake the health-care system in the country, a sixth of the national economy, on a razor-thin majority with no support whatsoever from the opposition party, misunderstood the nature of democratic politics. An election victory is the beginning of things, not the culmination...

Mr. Obama has shown scant regard for precedent in American history. To him, and to the coterie around him, his presidency was a radical discontinuity in American politics. There is no evidence in the record that Mr. Obama read, with discernment and appreciation, of the ordeal and struggles of his predecessors. At best there was a willful reading of that history. Early on, he was Abraham Lincoln resurrected (the new president, who hailed from Illinois, took the oath of office on the Lincoln Bible). He had been sworn in during an economic crisis, and thus he was FDR restored to the White House. He was stylish with two young children, so the Kennedy precedent was on offer.

In the oddest of twists, Mr. Obama claimed that his foreign policy was in the mold of Dwight Eisenhower’s. But Eisenhower knew war and peace, and the foreign world held him in high regard.

During his first campaign, Mr. Obama had paid tribute to Ronald Reagan as a “transformational” president and hinted that he aspired to a presidency of that kind. But the Reagan presidency was about America, and never about Ronald Reagan. Reagan was never a scold or a narcissist... There was forgiveness in Reagan, right alongside the belief in the things that mattered about America—free people charting their own path.

If Barack Obama seems like a man alone, with nervous Democrats up for re-election next year running for cover, and away from him, this was the world he made. No advisers of stature can question his policies.... The imperial presidency is in full bloom.

There are no stars in the Obama cabinet today, men and women of independent stature and outlook... Obama needs no sage advice, he rules through political handlers....

Perhaps this moment—a presidency coming apart, the incompetent social engineering of an entire health-care system—will now claim Mr. Obama’s attention.

(Wall Street Journal, Nov. 7, 2013)



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel speaks at the 68th United Nations General Assembly on Oct. 1, 2013.

water reactor at Arak, for producing bomb-grade plutonium, continues to be built]. In return, the U.S. and allies would, as a first step, release some currently escrowed Iranian funds and ease banking restrictions.

Netanyahu, as noted earlier [and, evidently, the French foreign minister] denounced this as a sell-out, not least because it leaves Iran's nuclear facilities intact—achieved stockpiles of fissionable materials are untouched, and even 3% uranium can quickly be ginned up to “break-out” weapons-grade by the Iranians' increasing, and increasingly efficient, centrifuges, 10,000 of which would remain in place).

These two processes—peace-process pressure on Israel and the rush to a negotiated diplomatic “settlement” with Iran—are connected and overlap as shown precisely by the nine-month ultimatum given Israel. Obama wants a diplomatic victory *before* Israel feels it must move against Teheran: and nine months from the July, 2013 beginning of Israeli-Palestinian talks will put us at March, 2014, the date by which most informed experts see Teheran as achieving clear nuclear break-out. Hence March, 2014—five months away—is also Israel's own *terminus ad quem* for a decision on military action.

Here, note too that an Iranian-European-U.S nuclear deal now, before March, 2014, would, politically, make a subsequent Israeli military move against Iran more difficult, if not impossible. Such an act would be represented as an aggression threatening “peace” both with the Palestinians and the Iranians, and alienating Europe and the UN and, clearly, Obama's America as well.

To summarize: “Peace” between Israel and the Palestinians, and a diplomatic deal with the Iranians, are related; they are obverse sides of the same coin, the building-blocs of Obama's (and Kerry's) second-term foreign policy and also key to Obama's post-Presidential legacy, offsetting his dismal record of failures elsewhere—Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria, Russia.

Jerusalem, from Obama's perspective, stands in the way of both goals. This explains the clear Obama-Kerry readiness to pressure Israel both into an rushed and unstable peace agreement, and into living with the existential threat of an Iranian bomb. Extricating America from Middle East entanglements by playing to Muslim regional interests should also be related to Obama's wider diplomatic plan, the much-vaunted new “pivot” to Asia.

Here, if Obama can dissuade Israel from acting against Iran, so much the better; if not, and Israel acts despite his pressure, he can then support European sanctions, abandon Jerusalem at the UN, and, finally, wash his hands of the uncooperative Jews and their pesky Prime Minister.

Israel going it alone against the Iranians, and in opposition to the U.S., is a nightmare scenario indeed. That it is even thinkable is a measure of the immense diplomatic-political distance travelled in the last five years of Barack Hussein Obama's Presidency. Will Israel find the strength to act alone, despite threats? Will the U.S. Congress find a leader able to rise to the occasion across party lines and oppose Obama's abandonment of Israel, appeasement of Iran, and weakening of America's position in the world?

(Prof. Krantz is Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, and Editor of its ISRAFAFX magazine)

U.S.-BROKERED “PEACE PROCESS” & GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS

Benjamin Netanyahu and the Two-Fold “Breakthrough”

BY PAUL C. MERKLEY

“Breakthrough” was the *leitmotif* for editorial opinion on world affairs during September and October of this year. First there was President Putin's ice-breaking proposal for cooperation between Russia and the U.S. that achieved unanimous Security Council approval for the ultimatum that brought Syria's chemical weapons program out into open, and that is now, evidently, leading to its liquidation. This initiative came just in time to allow Barack Obama to crawl back with dignity from the limb that he found himself on, as his own Congress and the Parliament of Great Britain, responding to clear indications in public opinion polls, seemed about to refuse to follow his lead in some sort of military intervention in Syria that neither he nor anyone else on earth wanted.

Scarcely had we had time to absorb the “Breakthrough” in the Syrian crisis than the same word began to appear in connection with another story of even more ancient pedigree. On September 27, the world was told by President Obama that he had just had a telephone conversation with President Rouhani of Iran — the first direct contact between the leaders of Iran and the United States since 1979!...

Proof that this one swallow might indeed herald a spring was found by optimists in the speech that President Rouhani made to the UN General Assembly (September 24, 2013.) There was reference to Israel's exceptionally brutal national character, accounting for the sad life inflicted on the innocent people of Palestine... but the principal point he wished to make (he said) was that “Iran poses absolutely no threat to the world or the region.”

Editorial opinion following the speech revealed how keen the world was to find signs of spring. Cynics and realists (the two camps always overlap) rehearsed grounds for mistrusting Rouhani, noting that the Iranian regime had once before used Rouhani in nuclear negotiations to put on a moderate face while expanding their nuclear program. During the election campaign, some recalled, Rouhani had boasted of his duplicity, claiming that his tactics had essentially split the EU and U.S. so that Iran could expand its programme.

At the UN on Oct. 1, 2013, Prime Minister Netanyahu pleaded for realism, reminding the world that Rouhani had in fact served Iran's “dictator” from the beginning, and vowing that “If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone.”

This thought appears in one form or another in editorials following upon Netanyahu's speech of October 1. For example, *The New York Times* chastised Netanyahu for “[using] sarcasm and combative words to portray Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, as a smooth talking charlatan ... a wolf in sheep's clothing.” *The Times*, while noting that “Mr. Netanyahu has legitimate reasons to be wary of any Iranian overtures,” warned that “it could be disastrous if Mr. Netanyahu and his supporters in Congress were so blinded by distrust of Iran that they exaggerate the threat, block President Obama from taking advantage of new diplomatic openings, and sabotage the best chance to establish a new relationship since the 1979 Iranian revolution sent American-Iranian relations into deep freeze.”

Obama's almost obscene keenness to “get a deal” with Iran led to the calling of an international conference at Geneva.... This caused Netanyahu again to get on the blower in order to urge Kerry not to sign a ‘Very, Very, Bad Deal, With Iran’

It has now been found necessary to postpone the Geneva discussions. A small victory has been gained for the cause of realism that Netanyahu has tried heroically to defend – with very little thanks from anyone — for so many years.

(Prof. Paul Merkley is an Academic Fellow at CIJR)

Manfred Gerstenfeld: *Demonizing Israel and the Jews*

(New York: RVP Press, 2013)

PROF. IRA ROBINSON

Jews the world over are concerned about many things on the eve of the new Jewish year 5774. But one of the things most prominent in the mind of anyone accessing Jewish media is surely the reportage concerning attacks on Jews, Judaism, and Israel all over the world that all too often seem to blend into one another. How is one supposed to make sense of the wide variety of incidents of this sort, from attempts to boycott Israeli products, to demonstrations supporting the destruction of the State of Israel, to verbal taunts and physical aggression against identifiable Jews?

Manfred Gerstenfeld's latest book, *Demonizing Israel and the Jews*, presents the reader with a most useful tool to help in understanding exactly what is going on. Rather than attempting to create a systematic and comprehensive picture of this complex and widely diffused phenomenon, Gerstenfeld wisely creates a series of over fifty mini-descriptions of the situation regarding opposition to Israel and Jews as it presents itself in widely diverse contexts and settings. Gerstenfeld asks intelligent and pertinent questions of people with a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise and lets them present what they know in a succinct way, usually in no more than three printed pages. The real strength of the book is in the diversity of its reportage.

Most of the reports concern the situation in European countries (with a bit of an emphasis on the situation in the Netherlands). They help the reader achieve greater understanding of such key phenomena as the role played in these events by Muslim immigrants to Europe, the attitude of the European left, the lack of differentiation among Muslims between Israel and Jews, the Soviet origins of the portrayal of Zionism as a form of racism, and self-hatred among Israelis...

[Gerstenfeld's] book successfully conveys the immediacy and seriousness found in the best sort of journalistic reportage, along with important perspectives on anti-Judaism and anti-Israelism in Europe today. One small book cannot, of course, do everything. The format, for one thing, does not give individuals the space required to present more than the most important salient facts and trends, many of which could surely benefit from a much longer exposition. It also does not deal in any detail with the playing out of these issues in North America, which will doubtlessly require a separate publication...

It is much too early to have a completely clear perspective on all the important issues touched by *Demonizing Israel and the Jews*, but those concerned with the contemporary situation of Israel and the Jews cannot wait for such a completely clear perspective to emerge. Gerstenfeld's book admirably surveys the field and gives us the wherewithal to greatly increase our understanding of extremely important phenomena playing out before our eyes.

(Prof. Ira Robinson, Religion, Concordia U.,
is a CIJR Academic Fellow)

Alvin H. Rosenfeld (ed.): *Resurgent Antisemitism: Global Perspectives*

(Indiana University Press, 2013)

PROF. CATHERINE CHATTERLEY

Today, more than sixty years after the destruction of European Jewry, antisemitism is a globalized phenomenon and one that appears to be evolving on a number of fronts. Jew-hatred has a millennial history and is one of humanity's most complex imaginative systems. Nonetheless, antisemitism remains a subject that is understudied and under-researched in serious scholarly circles and on our university campuses.

Alvin Rosenfeld's new collection of essays is a pioneering contribution to the burgeoning field of Antisemitism Studies. Composed of nineteen separate essays, the text as a whole clearly identifies antisemitism as a transnational phenomenon, a serious global problem that connects people across cultures and continents, operating through the political spectrum in local, national, and international contexts.

In an essay entitled, "Between Old and New Antisemitism: The Image of Jews in Present-day Spain," Alejandro Baer argues that the negative religious caricature of Jews remains "firmly anchored" in Spanish cultural memory through language, literature, and popular tradition, despite the expulsion of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula in 1492. "The Jew" haunted Spanish discourse through the nineteenth century, and themes of supposed Jewish criminality and conspiracy were used in nationalist propaganda during the Civil War (1936-1939) and under Franco's dictatorship, which ended in 1975. Biological racism did not operate in Francoist fascism in the same way or to the same degree as that of Nazism. Baer explains the strange schizophrenic attitude toward Jews under Franco where the regime maintained a traditional hatred of Jews and Judaism and ignored the Holocaust after the war, while at the same time boasting about having saved Jews...

Zvi Gitelman's study of "Comparative and Competitive Victimization in the Post-Communist Sphere" is crucial to our understanding of the "double-genocide" argument and dual-memory culture at work in the former Soviet Union. Of particular significance to the arguments that attempt to equalize Nazi and Soviet crimes in the new states of Eastern Europe is the myth of the Zydokomuna (Jewish Communist). Gitelman evaluates membership numbers in the communist parties of Poland, Hungary, Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania and concludes that, while Jews did constitute a disproportionate number of communists, the number of communists among Jews was miniscule (less than a tenth of one percent in Poland, for example).

Nationalists in these new independent states use the accusation of "Jewish-Communism" as a way to rationalize and excuse the negative record of collaboration with Nazi Germany and their own local violence against Jewish neighbors. Thus, if Jews effectively can be made responsible for the crimes of communism, their suffering in the Holocaust can be both minimized and justified, and the complicity of Eastern European populations in their mass murder can be legitimized.

In the closing essay of the book, Alvin Rosenfeld argues convincingly that the recent resurgence of antisemitism has caused serious collateral damage to the memory and history of the Holocaust. Thus, the memory of the Holocaust can no longer be assumed to offer protection against the return of antisemitism. The promise to "wipe Israel off the map," where almost half the Jews of the world reside, is almost a cliché in today's world—something we are now too accustomed to hearing. This incredibly disturbing post-Holocaust reality must be addressed, to prevent future catastrophe.

(Prof. Catherine Chatterley, an Adjunct Professor of History
at the U. of Manitoba, is a CIJR Academic Fellow)

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

A Word from JACK KINCLER (CIJR Board Chairman)

Dear friends and supporters, Good things are happening at CIJR, in Montreal and in Toronto. I'd like to underline two things, one an activity, the other a major initiative, both related to changing negative campus and media dynamics.

The Activity

Back in October we hosted a group of approximately 25 Israeli students from Ben Gurion and Tel Aviv Universities, here under a program called *Generations of Israel*. They spent a total of four days touring the city and the community, meeting with leadership, and visiting the McGill and Concordia campuses, where they met with students and professors. Here is what Prof. Waller (McGill) had to say after the Israelis met with his Political Science class:

The visit of the Israeli students to my class on Thursday went remarkably well. I suspect that most of my students had not met an Israeli before. All six students handled themselves admirably and made favorable impressions. They spent the entire 80 minutes answering questions in a most effective manner, and received an enthusiastic round of applause at the end. Their answers to the various questions tended to validate the things that I've been telling my class over the last few weeks, so I was very pleased about that!

The Initiative:

We have begun a major project to assemble a Pan-Canadian Israel Coalition of like-minded academics and organizations, students, and activists. In the media and on campuses the silent majority is denied the truth, and campus activists are denied their right to fair treatment. Both freedom of the press and of expression are continuously eroded, through misinformation, false propaganda, and even intimidation and the threat of violence.

The resources available to those who would curtail our freedom are seemingly unlimited. We must unite across Canada and fight intelligently together for freedom, truth and peace. CIJR is, therefore, creating and coordinating a Canada-wide "Pan-Canadian Israel Coalition" to fight for our shared values and basic freedoms, and we invite your advice and participation.

On behalf of CIJR, best *Hannukah* wishes and Season's Greetings to you and your families.

From the Toronto Chapter

ALAN HERMAN

With the formal 2011 launch of CIJR-Toronto, our Chapter, led by myself and Susan Jacobs Baigel, and Academic Adviser Prof. Sally Zerkler, has been carrying out CIJR's unique mandate to inform and educate students, the Jewish community and the larger public on Israel, Middle East, and Jewish-world issues.

Our recent accomplishments in Ontario include: a symposium at *Shaarei Shomayim* analyzing "Israel and Middle East Politics"; an international all-day conference, "Combatting the Delegitimization of Israel", at *Beth Tzedec*; a presentation, to a sold-out audience, by Mordechai Kedar on the "Impact of the Israeli Elections on Israel and the Middle East" and a recent, successful Toronto-Hamilton speaking tour by Asaf Romirowsky, internationally-renowned expert on the role of the UN in Palestinian refugee politics.

In pursuit of our mandate, we have forged new relationships with community partners on such worthy projects as *Israel Truth Week*, and are planning a symposium on "Israel, the U.S. and the Iranian Nuclear Threat". So, to all CIJR supporters, *l'shana habaa b'Toronto*, The Coming Year in Toronto!

From the Montreal Office

FREDERICK KRANTZ

As *Hannukah* arrives, an active year under the aegis of CIJR's Montreal office is well under way. The new "Israel Learning Seminar" program, open to students and adults, has held its first two seminars (given by Profs. Ira Robinson, "Judaism and the Jewish People" and Frederick Krantz "Antisemitism, Zionism, Yishuv"). And CIJR's first *Community Colloquium* of the year, on "Israel, the U.S. and the Iranian Nuclear Threat", will take place Nov. 24, 2013 at Congregation Shomrim Laboker (and in Toronto next semester). We look forward to joint ventures with Toronto, like the Pan-Canadian Israel Union, described by our Chairman, Jack Kincler, and a Colloquium on "The Jewish Thought of Emil Fackenheim", Spring, 2014.