

**Israel Today – February 9, 2016**  
**Rabbi Howard L. Apothaker, Ph.D.**

**N. Korea's Latest Test and Iran** (*Defense One*)

Iran is North Korea's frequent partner in missile development and, as in previous long-range missile tests, Iranian engineers were likely on hand to witness the launch, either as potential customers or as part of a more substantial coproduction arrangement.

**Nuclear Agreement w/ Iran** - Zaki Shalom

The US military is asked to fight for extended periods only if there is a definitive and present threat to the US or its most critical interests. Israel must internalize the burden of preventing Iranian nuclearization. (The US House approved legislation to restrict Obama's ability to lift sanctions under the int'l nuclear deal w/ Iran. The legislation won't become law over promised a veto.) The Administration said that it was imposing new, more limited sanctions on some Iranian citizens and companies for violating UN resolutions against ballistic tests.

**Iranian Regime Reaps Benefits from Relief** (*NYT*)

The only deals being struck are w/ state-backed conglomerates controlled by companies linked to state orgs. Little is trickling down to Iran's private sector. Almost all int'l banks shy away from the Iranian market because of unilateral American regulations that label Iran as a state sponsor of terror. Aaron David Miller: Getting int'l sanctions lifted allows Iran to improve its economic conditions and defuse public discontent. The nuclear agreement is so advantageous to Iran that *it just wouldn't be in Tehran's interest to violate the terms.*

**Azerbaijan, Israel's Strategic Partner** (*EU Reporter*)

"The Azerbaijani-Israeli strategic partnership...encompasses ... energy, security, defense, agriculture, trade, but it is also mostly characterized by the human factor, w/ a vibrant Jewish community in Azerbaijan," said a spokesman of the Azerbaijan FM. The Jewish community of Azerbaijan, w/ ~30K people, exemplifies how in a secular country w/ a majority Muslim Shia population that borders Iran, all faith communities are able to live in harmony and mutual respect. Israel buys oil from Azerbaijan, while Azerbaijan is interested in Israel's tech, science, and medical know-how and is importing defense-related equipment. On BDS: "We have no problem w/ importing such products in Azerbaijan."

**Writing to Fit the Paradigm** – Z. Ravji (*The Tower*)

Going Unreported: Normalcy of life in the W. Bank; human rights violations by the PA including lack of freedom of speech and the press. The foreign press write stories that fit the preconceptions of their editors: Israelis = bad; Pals = good. Israel is the only country in the region

that respects freedom of the press. Members of the foreign press may say whatever they want about Israel, without fear of censorship or retaliation. Khaled Abu Toameh: Western journalists in Israel in 2015 asked to interview Jewish settlers living in the Gaza Strip even though Israel had pulled out of Gaza 10 years before. A few years ago a journalist received a request from a correspondent to help arrange an interview w/ Arafat though Arafat had been dead for years. Journalists assure me that pre-1948 there was a Pal. state w/ E. J-lem as its capital even though, prior to 1967, the W. Bank was controlled by Jordan, and Gaza, Egypt. One asked to visit the "destroyed" city of Jenin, where "thousands of Pals had been massacred by Israel in 2002" even though it was 60 Pals, many of them gunmen, and 23 IDF soldiers who were killed in a battle. When it comes to Pals, many journalists refuse to report on the financial corruption and human rights violations rife under the PA and Hamas, ignore the current wave of stabbings and car-rammings, and favor the Pal. attackers over the Israelis who were attacked.

**New US Intel Report Says ISIS Weaker** (*Reuters*)

**Islamic State Still on the Rise** (*WashPost*)

**ISIS Money Problems and Desertions** (*WashPost*)

ISIS's army has been hobbled by worsening money problems, desertions and a dwindling fighter pool.

**Illegality of BDS in NY State** (*Lawfare Project*)

NY State prohibits discriminatory *commercial conduct* that disadvantages others due to their nat'l origin. It *does not* forbid advocacy, picketing, or other forms of speech. US Customs recently issued a reminder notice to importers in the US to not label products that come from the W. Bank as "Made in Israel" and made it clear that the non-compliant would be sanctioned.

**+30,000 Pals to Work in Israel** (*Ha'aretz*)

Israel approved allowing 30K more Pals to work in Israel. 120K Pals work for Israelis: 58K w/ permits to work within Israel, 30K who work in Israel illegally, and 27K who work in industrial zones in W. Bank settlements. Now only 42% of Pals support a 3<sup>rd</sup> intifada, down from 63% who supported it in Nov.

**Two Minors Convicted** (*Ha'aretz*)

The J-lem District Court sentenced the 2 Israeli minors convicted of the 7/14 murder of a Pal. teen. One received a life sentence and the other, 21 years; he didn't take part in the actual murder. The perpetrators admitted that their acts were in revenge for the kidnapping of 3 Israeli students in the W. Bank on 6/12/14.

### **Customs Find Stash in EU Rep's Car** (*Globes*)

Customs at the Allenby Crossing between Israel and Jordan seized 10 kilos of gold bars and jewelry, 700+ smartphones, and steroids in the SUV of a political adviser to the EU mission to the ME.

### **US Invests \$120 Million in Is. Tunnel Detection**

The IDF is working to destroy the Hamas tunnel threat from Gaza, most hidden from the public. The US gov't will invest \$120 million in developing and manufacturing an "Israeli invention" for detecting and identifying tunnels, in collaboration w/ the Israel DM which will invest a similar amount, \$40 million for the first year. The US needs the system on its southern border. The injection of American \$ and technology will shorten the deployment time of the system in Israel. (*Ynet*)

### **Silencing Speakers on Is.-Pal. Problem** – A. Ayalon

At King's College London, I was speaking at an event. Students were pushed and the event was cut short due to the disruption. A slogan bothered me most: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Their chant means an end to a State of Israel, a position not shared by the majority of Pals or Israelis, nor the int'l community, which is committed to a 2-state solution. Daniella Greenbaum "Columbia U. Apartheid Divest," by encouraging polarization, discouraging negotiation, and misrepresenting the political landscape, abandons the aspiration for peace and embraces perpetual mutual hostility. We must work together as a student body - not to divest from Israel, but to invest in peace. Undergraduates at the Univ. of Waterloo rejected calling for the severing of ties between UW and Israeli academic institutions.

### **Parkinson's Alternative Therapy** (*Times of Israel*)

Alex Kerten, the developer of a mind-body therapy for Parkinson's called Gyro-Kinetics, has authored *Parkinson's, Hello Life!* – w/ medical and psychological insights into the Parkinson's condition as well as practical exercises that involve breathing, relaxation and dance.

### **EU: There's No Boycott of Israel** (*Times of Is.*)

The EU does not boycott Israel, EU ambassador told Uriel Lynn, head of the Fed. of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce. Economic ties w/ Israel may be stronger than they are w/ any other non-EU country." Israel has signed 240 agreements w/ the EU as part of the Horizon 2020 research and dev't program, w/ grants to Israeli start-ups and research groups worth up to \$170 million. Israel has provided the EU w/ top-notch technology in a wide range of areas said.

### **Israeli, S. Korean UAV Production** (*UPI*)

Israel Aerospace and Hankuk Carbon of S. Korea are forming a joint venture for the dev't, manufacture, and

marketing of vertical-takeoff-and-landing unmanned aerial vehicles for Korea's domestic market.

### **Israel's Cyber Sector Blooms in the Desert** (*AFP*)

Minerva Labs won the prize for the Most Innovative Cyber Startup at Tel Aviv's 2016 Cybertech convention and won first place at the 2016 Berlin Cyber Security Bootcamp. Its software protects systems from focused attacks without the need to detect them first. 2 ultra-modern complexes in Beersheba house a dozen Israeli companies, start-ups, venture capital funds and foreign groups: Lockheed Martin, Deutsche Telekom, Oracle and IBM. 1,500 technicians, engineers and researchers work at its CyberSpark industrial park. Many have been trained at the local Ben-Gurion U. 2 more complexes comprising 27 buildings are to be added; the municipality expects the population to grow by 100K in the next 10 years. The Israeli-US cyber startup ForeScout said Thur. it had raised \$76 million. Its technology allows companies to monitor all devices on their networks without requiring special software to be installed on each device. With 708 deals in 2015, Israel's high-tech sector raised a record \$4.43 billion in 2015, +30% from 2014

### **US Continues to Support Direct Talks**

US State Dep't: "We believe that the preferred path to resolve this conflict is for the parties to reach an agreement on final status issues directly." A. Baker: France prejudices the issue of the permanent status of the territory and is attempting to undermine the negotiating process called for by the UN. France is acting against all principles of conflict-resolution. France said that it would organize a conference to resolve the Israeli-Pal. conflict, that France would recognize Palestine as an independent state if that effort failed. Israeli DM Ya'alou: "The heart of this conflict is their unwillingness to recognize our existence in any borders." Bibi: This gives an incentive to the Pals not to compromise. Israeli opposition leader I. Herzog met w/ Mr. Hollande. Herzog: "A Pal. state cannot be established now; the Pals do not currently have a leadership that controls all of their territories and could lead such a move." Though "a big supporter of a 2 states vision, we have to be realistic. It can't become a reality now. The hatred and incitement among the Pal is just too great."

### **3,500-Year-Old Egyptian Seal in Galilee** (*JPost*)

A farmer in the Lower Galilee discovered a 3,500-year-old Egyptian seal, a scarab amulet from the New Kingdom, the period stretching from the 16th-11th centuries BCE. The amulet "shows King Pharaoh Thutmose III seated on the throne" alongside the monarch's name.

### **71% of Jewish Israelis Do Not See Peace**

26% of Jewish Israelis believe that talks between Israel and the PA will lead to peace; 71% do not.

### **Russia Assures Israel** (*Ha'aretz*)

Russia assured Israel that it has not and will not transfer arms to Hizbullah in Syria. An official: "There's an open line between us and the Russians at every level....We made our red lines regarding Syria and the involvement by Iran and Hizbullah clear to the Russians, and when we have any concerns, we discuss them." Israel will never leave the Golan Heights, no matter what diplomatic settlement is reached in Syria, FM Dore Gold told Israeli ambassadors from around the world Sun.

### **Returning the Bodies of Terrorists** – G. Erdan

Per an editorial in *Ha'aretz*, delaying the burials of the bodies of Pal. terrorists is "unnecessary abuse," "collective punishment." The reason for the delay is to prevent the funerals from turning into mass demonstrations of incitement, provoking participants who hear songs of praise for the martyr to join the circle of terrorism themselves. A. Issacharoff: Abbas met w/ parents of several Pals who had murdered Israelis and promised to rebuild the families' homes, which Israeli security troops had demolished. Official Pal. media convey the message that the terrorists are "heroes."

### **Kerry Stresses Ending Incitement** (*JTA*)

Kerry called Abbas last weekend and "stressed the importance of stopping incitement and inflammatory rhetoric." Throngs of Pals called out "Death to Israel" at the funeral of a PA security officer who injured 3 IDF soldiers at a W. Bank checkpoint. High-ranking Fatah officials were among the thousands who attended the funeral and delivered speeches at the cemetery.

### **Are Pals Committing Suicide?** – S.Weinglass

Asked not why there are so many attackers, but why so few, given the vast majority of the Pal. population hates Israel. Islam forbids suicide, so it is convenient to commit suicide by police. Society can then say, "How wonderful, he is a *shahid*, he is a hero."

### **Smuggling Attempts Intercepted in 2015** (*Ynet*)

Israel last year foiled 847 smuggling attempts through its border crossings: chemical solutions used to make rockets, GoPro cameras to be used to spy on IDF forces, laser markers for weaponry, electrodes to make rockets and explosive devices, pipes and tin boards used to manufacture rockets, industrial coal for rocket production, liquids for rocket propellant fuel hidden inside dish-washing liquid, soldering coils for rocket production, and disassembled motorcycles and trucks.

### **Western Wall for Non-Orthodox Jews** (*NYT*)

The Israeli gov't approved the creation of an upgraded egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall in J-lem for non-Orthodox Jews.

### **Tribute: Amer. Heroes of Holocaust** (*CNN*)

Prez Obama bestowed its Righteous Among the Nations award posthumously on Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds of Knoxville, TN. As a prisoner of war in Jan. 1945, Edmonds was told by his Nazi captors to reveal which of his fellow prisoners of war were Jewish. At the barrel of a gun, Edmonds declared, "We are all Jews." Also honored: Lois Gunden, a French teacher from Indiana, who founded a children's home on the French coast that acted as a safe house for Jewish families. *MEMRI*: Meanwhile, Iran's Khamenei published on his website a video expressing doubt about whether the Holocaust happened, rages about Europe's ban on public questioning of the validity of the Holocaust.

### **Military Aircraft Training Contract** (*RT-Russia*)

Israeli arms company Elbit Systems and US military contractor Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) have won a £500 million contract to provide aircraft training for the UK military.

### **Unmanned Naval Vessel** (*JPost*)

Israel's Elbit Systems unveiled the "Seagull" unmanned naval vessel that fires small torpedoes at enemy subs, detect and destroy up submerged mines, and lay mines and undertake sea and port security or electronic warfare missions. The vessel can be controlled via satellite link, can operate continuously for 96 hours, and has a remote-controlled machine gun attached to the bow.

### **Confessions of a Muslim Zionist** (*Israel Hayom*)

A young Muslim woman from NY, FR, who works for an Israeli startup, has stirred a small storm w/ FB posts about her experiences on her 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to Israel. "Everyone of all ages in Israel gave me exceptional, world class treatment... I saw women driving, shopping independently, studying, working, and enjoying life in Israel, freedoms they couldn't dream of elsewhere in the ME. Many of them are burka'd to the nines. Also, it's way safer to walk outside late at night in most parts of Israel than in NY. The people are civil and good....You will be surprised how many other Zionist Muslims I came across there.... Muslim Zionists were the ones that sent me the most messages! Tons! They hailed from many Arab countries, S. Asian countries, and EU countries. Each told me of their efforts to spread the truth in their respective communities and social media. It gave me a lot of comfort to know that the younger generations of educated Muslims are stepping up."

### **APC Gets Advanced Missile Defense** (*Times of Is.*)

An Israeli Namer armored personnel carrier has been outfitted w/ the advanced Windbreaker missile defense system for the first time. The defense system has previously been installed on IDF tanks and saw combat during the 2014 war in Gaza. The Namer is the most heavily armored APC in the world.

### **Shift in Tone for Canada** (*Nat'l Post-Canada*)

Kelly McParland: Canada is climbing back on the fence of moral relativity. For 10 years we acknowledged the reality of Israel's right to exist without being attacked, bombed, threatened or invaded by neighbors who want to wipe it off the earth, but now we're back to pretending Israel could somehow end the violence if only it was nicer to the people who hate it.

### **Hamas Exploits Entry Permits for Gazans** (*JPost*)

Israel Security arrested 2 Hamas operatives who had entered from Gaza on forged medical documents and then escaped from the hospital and traveled to N. Israel. The coordinator of gov't activities in the territories: Hamas will force Israel to close the crossing to Gaza if attempts to recruit Gazans for terrorist missions do not cease. Gazans requiring medical care or seeking business opportunities cross daily into Israel and the W. Bank via the Erez crossing. In 2015 Israel issued 100,000+ entry permits for Gazans to enter Israel for medical care, trade and Muslim prayers in J-lem.

### **Saving the Forgotten Jews of Ethiopia** (*BBC*)

D. Bernstein: Many "Black Lives Matter" groups have been persuaded to make hostility to Israel a part of their platform. The fact that Israel is the only nation, ever, to airlift tens of thousands of poor black Africans into its country from a war zone and give them immediate, full citizenship doesn't give these groups pause.

### **Ten Years of Hamas Rule** (*Newsweek*)

There are separate Pal. gov'ts in the W. Bank and Gaza, 2 cadres of political elites, 2 economies, increasingly different cultures. It's time: If the Pals can't peacefully resolve their own territorial conflict, they certainly are unlikely to resolve the one with Israel.

### **Where to that Aid for Pals Go?**

Per Israel's Dep. FM: The PA pays monthly stipends of \$400- \$3,500 to terrorists' families, in 2014, 16% of annual foreign donations to the PA. Sudan, S. Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and the Congo averaged \$15.30. Fin. assistance perpetuates the sense of victimhood and unconditional entitlement. It should foster values of tolerance and nonviolence. *NY Post*: When more than half of an entity's funding comes

from foreign gov'ts, it must disclose the amount of funding from those gov'ts. It's similar to some statutes in the US, such as the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. In the US, these are criminal statutes - punishable by up to 5 years in jail. Israel's law has no criminal component.

### **Highest Ranking Arab Female in Civil Service**

The Israeli cabinet approved the appointment of Mariam Kabha, an Arab woman, as nat'l commissioner for equal employment opportunities within the Economy Ministry, the highest ranking Arab female in the civil service.

### **China Deepens Its Footprint in Iran** (*NYT*)

When int'l sanctions tightened in 2012 and took nearly 700K barrels a day of Iranian crude oil off world markets it sold @ \$109.45 per barrel. Now oil is @ \$25 a barrel, >25% lower. The result: Int'l oil companies are less likely new investments in Iran's oil fields. China will increase trade to \$600b. in the coming decade. China has been Iran's biggest trading partner for the past 6 years.

### **Core of Arak Reactor Removed** (*Fars News*)

Iran has taken out the heart of its heavy water reactor in Arak in compliance with the nuclear deal, an informed source told *FNA* on Monday.

### **Sony to Buy Altair Semiconductor** (*Times of Is.*)

Japanese conglomerate Sony is buying Altair Semiconductor for \$220 million. The Israeli company developed 4G chips, the standard considered by telecom pros to be the next big thing in cellphone data communications.

### **Israel Is a Nanotech Superpower** (*Times of Is.*)

In the past 9 years, Israeli nanotech researchers have filed 1,590 patents (769 granted), published 12,392 scholarly articles, and had 129 nano-success stories, which include establishing start-ups, selling ideas or technology to multinationals, or licensing a patent. Currently, there are 1,600+ ongoing research programs between Israeli universities and local or int'l companies studying the application of nanotech research conducted in Israel to a slew of industrial, infrastructure, and info tech issues. For example 3GSolar, which is using nanotech to develop photovoltaic energy cells to allow consumer devices to recharge themselves w/ ordinary lighting, thus eliminating a need for batteries.

### **New Offshore Gas Find by Israel** (*Ha'aretz*)

An Israeli exploration group reported on the discovery of another large natural gas field w/ 8.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas off Israel's Mediterranean coast.