

Israel Today – March 11-13, 2016
Rabbi Howard L. Apothaker, Ph.D.

Israel, US Collaborating on Tunnel Threat (*For. Pol*)
Per intelligence sources, the anti-tunnel system involves seismic sensors to monitor underground vibrations. *Ynet*: Hamas has been digging tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt big enough for trucks.

Exercise Strengthens Amer.-Israeli Cooperation
Juniper Cobra 2016 is part of a bilateral training exercises to ensure Israel's qualitative military edge. JC16 provides training in ballistic missile defense, crisis resupply, foreign disaster response and foreign humanitarian assistance. A focus of the exercise is to improve combined missile defense capabilities and overall interoperability between USEUCOM and the IDF.

Kerry Vows to Veto UN Resolutions (*JPost*)
The Pal. chief negotiator revealed that at a 2/21 meeting between Kerry and Abbas in Amman, Jordan, Kerry threatened to veto any UN Security Council resolution on Israeli settlements or Pal. statehood.

Russia Freezes Anti-Aircraft Transfer to Iran (*Ynet*)
Russia will freeze shipment of its S-300 anti-aircraft missile system to Iran.

The Obama Doctrine - Jeffrey Goldberg
In private encounters w/ other world leaders, Obama has argued that there will be no comprehensive solution to Islamist terrorism until Islam reconciles itself to modernity. Obama has come to a number of dovetailing conclusions. (1) The ME is no longer terribly imp't to American interests. (2) Even if the ME were surpassingly important, there would still be little an American president could do to make it a better place. (3) The innate American desire to fix the sorts of problems that manifest themselves inevitably leads to warfare, to the deaths of US soldiers, and to the eventual hemorrhaging of US credibility and power. (*Atlantic*)

Hamas Hopes for a Seaport - Yoni Ben Menachem
Hamas pins great hopes on Turkey's efforts to get Israel to ease the blockade on Gaza and build the seaport in return for normalization of Turkish-Israeli relations. The Egypt opposes the demand because of its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, and because of Hamas' involvement in terror within Egypt.

Israelis Are Bad at Apartheid – N. Fogelman
When my family took a vacation in Eilat and spent a week in a resort on an Israeli kibbutz, the majority of the guests in the hotel were Arab. We shared a jeep w/ an Arab couple on our desert jeep tour. When I went back to work at Hadassah, taking care of Muslim and Christian Arabs side-by-side w/ the Jewish patients, I worked

w/ my fellow nurses, also Arabs, some of whom live in the dorms w/ Jewish nurses. When it comes to doing apartheid, we fail miserably. (*Times of Is.*)

Connecting African Villages to Water, Electricity
Innovation Africa, an Israeli charity led by women employing Israeli tech, has connected 104 villages across Africa to water and electricity (Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania). Israeli solar panels allow power for refrigerating medicine and food, for turning on the lights; allow villagers to recharge cellular phones and access the Internet. Israeli drip irrigation systems are leading to cheaper and larger crop yields. A manual pump that purifies and makes water drinkable without electricity is making water safer. These projects have reached nearly a million people since 2008. (*Times of Is.*)

Israeli Remote Health Tech Sought (*Times of Is.*)
"With Israeli mobile and video tech, patients will connect w/ many specialists at a minimum cost," said the CEO of a Chinese healthcare tech company. One Is. firm specializes in telemedicine, transferring essential medical and lifestyle data over the Internet. The company's apps hook up w/ medical equipment or sensors and transmits info on a patient's EKG, blood pressure, or blood glucose level to doctors or hospitals. If anything's amiss - blood pressure too high, EKG unstable - an alarm goes off, alerting patients and doctors.

In Israel, an Adrenaline-Charged Life (*Times of Is.*)
Truth be told, in Israel we go about our business and live our lives. Our kids go to school. We go to the grocery store. People work. And exercise. We go out to eat. Friends go to movies. People hike. They go to the beaches. But we are wary, alert and take precautions. We want peace so badly we can taste it.

Abbas Rejected Peace Initiative by Biden (*JTA*)
Abbas rejected a US peace initiative presented to him by VP Biden Wed. The barriers: Pal. recognition of Israel as a Jewish state and giving up the demand for a Pal. "right of return" *Reuters*: Biden "We're committed to making sure that Israel can defend itself against all serious threats, maintain its qualitative edge w/ a quantity sufficient to maintain that." *PMW*: Fatah and the PA celebrated Tues.'s murder of an American tourist. PA TV called him a "*shahid*" - an Islamic martyr, and claimed: "12 settlers were hurt, among them an American tourist who was killed." Fatah's FB page honored the terrorists killed Tues., calling them "the pride of all of the young Pals.... Your blood will continue to be a torch that illuminates our path."

2-State Solution Annulment - Jonathan D. Halevi

While the PA is pushing for int'l recognition of the state of Palestine along the 1967 lines, it ignores the Pal. rift that paralyzes and nullifies a Pal. leadership that could take binding decisions in the name of the Pal. people.

Pal. Teachers Blow Whistle on PA Corruption -

Khaled Abu Toameh: Striking Pal. teachers are highlighting PA corruption, accusing the PA of wasting donors' funds and deceiving them by inflating the number of teachers on the list of employees, that it is paying higher salaries to the teachers than they receive.

Pal. Striker: "Our Tahrir Square" (*Ha'aretz*)

On Mon., Pal. teachers and supporters demonstrated again in pursuit of wages and their right to elect their reps in their trade union. One: "This is our Tahrir Square." Some demonstrators named ministers who send their own kids to private schools. There were no slogans against Israel.

We Hold the Key to a Better Future - Bassem Eid

I am a proud Pal. who grew up in a refugee camp. I want peace and prosperity for my people, an end to the misery and destruction. After 66 years of mistakes and missed opportunities, it is time for us Pals to create the conditions for peace and to work for a better future ... stop pretending that we can destroy Israel, stop listening to Muslim radicals or Arab regimes that use us to continue a pointless, destructive, and immoral war w/ Israel. In Gaza, our schools are controlled by Muslim fanatics who indoctrinate our children, and Hamas uses our civilians as human shields in a losing battle against Israel. In the W. Bank, the only good jobs are w/ Israeli companies, and the BDS movement is doing its best to take those jobs away from us. Abbas runs a corrupt dictatorship that uses int'l funds to consolidate its own administration rather than to develop the Pal. economy. In east J-lem, most Pals would prefer to live under Israeli rule than under PA rule. Israel has a right to exist. It is a nation for Israeli Arabs who have better lives than Arabs anywhere in Arab countries. Egypt was able to secure a favorable peace deal w/ Israel because it agreed to accept Israel and to give up on violence. We must accept these facts and move on. Israelis want to live in peace; the vast majority of Israelis are friendly and neighborly.

US Condemns Failure to Denounce Attacks (*JPost*)

Less than a mile from where VP Biden spoke in Jaffa, a Pal. attacker went on a stabbing rampage Tues. that left an Amer. tourist dead and 11 wounded before the assailant was fatally shot. At least 14 Israelis were wounded. Amer. Taylor Force, in Israel to see the country's growing startup scene, was killed. He graduated from West Point and served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a platoon

leader and fire support officer. Biden denounced those in the int'l community and in the PA who have failed to condemn Pal. terror attacks against Israel. Biden: "There can be no justification for this violence; the US stands firmly behind Israel's right to defend itself." Following the attacks, Israeli UN Amb. Danny Danon sent a letter to the UN Security Council demanding they condemn the stabbings. (1) Pal. terrorists carried out shooting attacks in J-lem on Wed. before being shot by security forces. (2) 2 Police officers were injured in a drive-by shooting attack near the Damascus Gate Tues. (3) A Pal. man stabbing an Israeli in Petah Tikva had the knife turned on him and died..

Why No Consequences for Abbas? - Jonathan Tobin
PA TV called the Jaffa terrorist a "martyr" and praising the "complex operation." Abbas, lauded as a moderate, thinks of Tel Aviv "occupied territory" inhabited by "settlers." D. Simpkins: The Pal. Center for Policy and Survey Research found in a poll that 2/3 of all Pals support the knife attacks vs. Israelis. Not all will risk their lives and stab you themselves, but actively support and cooperate w/ the ones who do. Dr. L. Samimian-Darash: Israelis killed in recent attacks are victims of the Pals' sanctification of death and refusal to recognize Israel's existence. The onus for stopping terrorism lies w/ Abbas and his ilk who agitate and provide funds to terrorists and their families. Pal. terrorists draw from years of hatred they learned in PA-run schools.

Stop Terrorist w/ Guitar (*JPost*)

Yishay Montgomery, a street performer on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa promenade, saw a terrorist running toward him Tues.. I "hit him w/ the guitar because it's what I had," he said. Montgomery was given a new guitar by the Halilit music store to reward his heroism.

Arab Jogger Wounded in Jaffa Attack (*Ynet*)

M. Wari: "Terrorists and their supporters don't discriminate between Jews, Muslims, and Christians, or Americans and Russians. They only want to kill. Terror has no color, race, or religion. Terror is an illness that needs to be stopped. Terror has a clear goal: to destroy the world and the coexistence in which we live."

Russian Victim Moved by Care Received in Israel

321 Israelis have been wounded over the past five months in Pal. terror attacks, many of them still recovering from their injuries. Here are some of their stories. A Russian couple wounded in Tues.'s terrorist attack in Jaffa: "We received outstanding medical care, and people came to talk to us and to offer help, including social workers and even the mayor of Tel Aviv." *TASS-Russia*: Moscow strongly condemned the attacks in Israel that claimed the lives of civilians.

Life Sci. Innovations Has Israeli Roots (*Times of Is.*)

"Research in Israel is present in between 25% and 28% of the world's successful biotech-based solutions," per a general partner at Pitango Venture Capital. "Many of the patents in pharmaceuticals that are now being used to treat cancer, heart problems, and much more were developed at Israeli institutions like Hebrew U. or the Weizmann Inst.."

Intel Buys Israeli 3D Video Tech Firms (*Reuters*)

Intel Corp bought Israel's Replay Technologies, including its 3D video tech that is used by US professional sports broadcasters, for \$175 million. Replay shows a panoramic view of the action. The system can freeze action from any angle, then rotate all around it.

Israel Water Purification Sys. to New Guinea

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is donating a GalMobile water purification vehicle to drought-stricken Papua New Guinea. The GalMobile connects to any water source and produces drinking water in 30 minutes, 8K cups of water per hour. (*Israel21c*)

Biden: Iran Under Close Watch (*WashPost*)

Biden Wed.: The US would not hesitate to act against any "conventional" military activity by Iran outside of last year's nuclear deal, underscoring the administration's concern after back-to-back missile tests by Tehran. He reiterated: "a nuclear-armed Iran is an absolutely unacceptable threat to Israel, the region and the US.

Iran's Long Road on Financial System

The Financial Action Task Force, whose 37 members include Russia and China, in Feb. urged member states to warn their banks about the risks of doing business w/ Iran. The FATF's label of Iran as a high-risk jurisdiction and repeated call for countermeasures have real implications. Sanctions relief and notwithstanding, significant impediments remain for banks looking to reestablish financial ties with Iran. (*Wash.Inst. for NE Policy*)

Missile Test May Breach Resolutions (*Radio Liberty*)

Per US State Dep't spokesman John Kirby warned. Dennis Ross: For a more pragmatic constituency in Iran, we need to raise the costs to Iran for its destabilizing and threatening policies in the region. If Iranians could vote for genuine reform, they would do so; unfortunately, opening up the political system, limiting the power of the mullahs and the Revolutionary Guard, and stopping aggressive and costly support for Shiite militias in the region are never on the ballot. (*Politico*)

Iran: The Deep State Endures (*Gatestone*)

The results of Iran's recent elections signify near nothing. The people were given a limited choice from a vet-

ted set of pro-regime candidates, all of whom favor Islamic rule. All decisions over ballistic missiles and associated delivery systems, the pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, export of the revolution, aggressive support of the Shi'a ascendancy in the Gulf and militant acts of inhumanity towards their own people are made by the deep state.

Israel, Egypt and Jordan - Common Interests

Though the media focuses mainly on friction between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the behind-the-scenes relationship between Israel, Egypt and Jordan is very different. All have a common interest in countering both ISIS and Hamas. Egypt is even more hostile to Hamas in Gaza than Israel is. (*Ha'aretz*)

Israel to Complete Separation Barrier around J-lem, Southern W. Bank (*Ha'aretz*)

Anti-Semitic Anti-Zionism – S. Schama (*Fin. Times*)
Criticism of Israeli gov't policies has mutated into a rejection of Israel's right to exist. Why have critics' wrath not extended to Russia which rains down destruction on civilian populations in Syria? Why be passive in the face of S. Arabia's brutal punishment of anyone whose exercise of freedom of conscience? Why is the rage selective? Anti-Semitism is not caused by Zionism; it is the other way round. Israel arose from centuries-long dehumanization of the Jews. Alan Johnson: I am not Jewish. I am a person of the Left and have been since the late 70s. We left-wingers must rethink our refusal of the right to national self-determination of just one people, the Jewish people ... to boycott just one state in the whole wide world, the Jewish one.

Truth vs. Myth in BDS Movement (*Huff. Post*)

Canada's House of Commons last month voted 229 to 51 in support of condemning the BDS campaign. Canada does not call for a Pal. "right of return" to Israel. It does call on Israel and its Arab neighbors, incl. the Pals, to reach peace via negotiations. Any Israeli withdrawal from land taken in the course of its self-defense during the 1967 war must occur only in the context of the Arabs/Pals providing recognition of Israel, secure and recognized boundaries, and a "termination of all claims or states of belligerency" against Israel.

First Temple-Era Seal Found in J-lem

A rare seal from the First Temple Period bearing a woman's name - Elihana bat Gael, written in ancient Hebrew letters - was discovered in excavations the Israel Antiquities Authority is conducting in the City of David in J-lem. A 2nd seal was found bearing the inscription "Sa'aryahu ben Shabenyahu." Both were found inside a building dating to the time of the First Temple.

Hizbullah Is Bleeding in Syria (*JPost*)

Israel's Nat'l Intelligence Estimate for 2016 notes that Hizbullah is bleeding in Syria, ~ 1,500 soldiers killed in action. 6,000+ wounded.

Hamas Has Replenished Its Rockets (*Times of Is.*)

Post-2014 Gaza War, Israeli officials believe Hamas has replenished its rocket supply, w/ the number of rockets that it had before the conflict. Most rockets are of relatively short range and of lower quality, w/ smaller quantities of explosives due to tunnel closures by Egypt limiting the import of raw materials.

Jordan Pro Temple Mount Surveillance (*Is. Hayom*)

Israel and Jordan agreed to install surveillance cameras on the Temple Mount to monitor security incidents there - to monitor and document Muslim rioters. Surveillance cameras won't be installed inside the mosque itself; rioters have barricaded themselves in the past.

Druze Women Operate Israeli Drone Factory (*Ynet*)

A new factory to produce drone components in the Israeli Druze village of Isfiya was inaugurated last Tues. Most of the factory workers are Druze women.

Improved Israeli-Egyptian Relations (*Is. Hayom*)

Both Israel and Egypt are tackling the spread of Islamist extremism, spearheaded by IS's Sinai branch. Both believe the fight against ISIS in Sinai necessitates confronting Hamas in Gaza. Even among customarily hostile circles in Egypt, calls for war against Israel or the severing of diplomatic ties are absent from the current discourse. Preserving the peace accord with Israel is viewed as a clear national interest, and a widespread consensus on this matter transverses all layers of Egyptian society. The argument is over expanding the relationship to the economic and cultural spheres, and in this regard many Egyptians remain hostile toward Israel. Incidentally, replace the name Egypt with Jordan in this article and it would perfectly describe the relationship between Jerusalem and Amman. *Times of Is.*: Hamas bulldozers are digging tunnels in broad daylight to boost smuggling from and to Sinai. The bulldozer drivers are seen taking "coffee breaks" at Hamas security positions, right in front of the Egyptian soldiers.

APC w/ Anti-Rocket Defense Rolling (*JPost*)

"Namer" armored personnel carriers made in Israel are equipped w/ the Trophy HV active protection system, which destroys antitank missiles and rocket-propelled grenades in mid-air. The system exists on Merkava Mark IV tanks, and successfully defended tanks during the 2014 Gaza war. The Defense Min. doubled orders of Namer and Merkava Mark IV tanks this year. Both are

key to carrying out offensives in Gaza and southern Lebanon, where Hamas and Hizbullah are heavily armed w/ anti-tank missiles and RPGs.

News/Headlines from Previous Week

Advanced Missile Defense Systems (*WashPost*)

When complete, Israel's multibillion-dollar missile defense system will rival, even surpass, in speed and targeting, air defenses deployed by Europe and the US. The US has provided \$3.3 billion over 10 years to support the system, which will be able to knock down ballistic missiles and orbiting satellites. Israel's defense establishment and its American partners have designed a layered system that responds to simultaneous attacks from multiple fronts - rockets lobbed from Gaza, mid-range rockets from Lebanon, and long-range ballistic missiles being developed by Iran. Israel's new X-Band radar will allow it to detect incoming missiles 500-600 miles out.

Alliance w/ US Helps Israel at the UN – D. Danon

Delegation in Moscow for Talks (*JPost*)

Iran Remains Off Limits to US Banks (*AFP*)

Kuwaiti Columnist: Israel Outdoes Us (*MEMRI*)

Britain Bans Public Boycotts of Israel (*Reuters*)

US Envoy Condemns UN's Anti-Israel Bias

S&P: Israel to Weather Global Volatility (*Globes*)

Stem Cell Research Agreement w/ California Inst.

Cisco Buying Israel's Leaba Semiconductor

Gates: Is. Tech "Changing the World" (*Times of Is.*)

Israeli Tech. Detects Terrorists through Fog (*Ynet*)

Bandage Stops "Uncontrollable" Bleeding (*Reuters*)

Sealant for Collapsed Lungs (*Times of Is.*)

Device Slows Progress of Alzheimer's (*Israel21c*)

Breakthrough Cancer Cure (*Times of Is.*)

The Optometrist in Your iPhone (*Times of Is.*)

Small Portable Ultrasound Syst. (*Jsh Bus.News*)

"Drone Guard" Counter-UAV Systems (*Is. Def.*)

Oracle Buys Ravello Systems for \$500 M. (*Globes*)

US to Stock Is. Cure for Lethal Radiation (*JPost*)