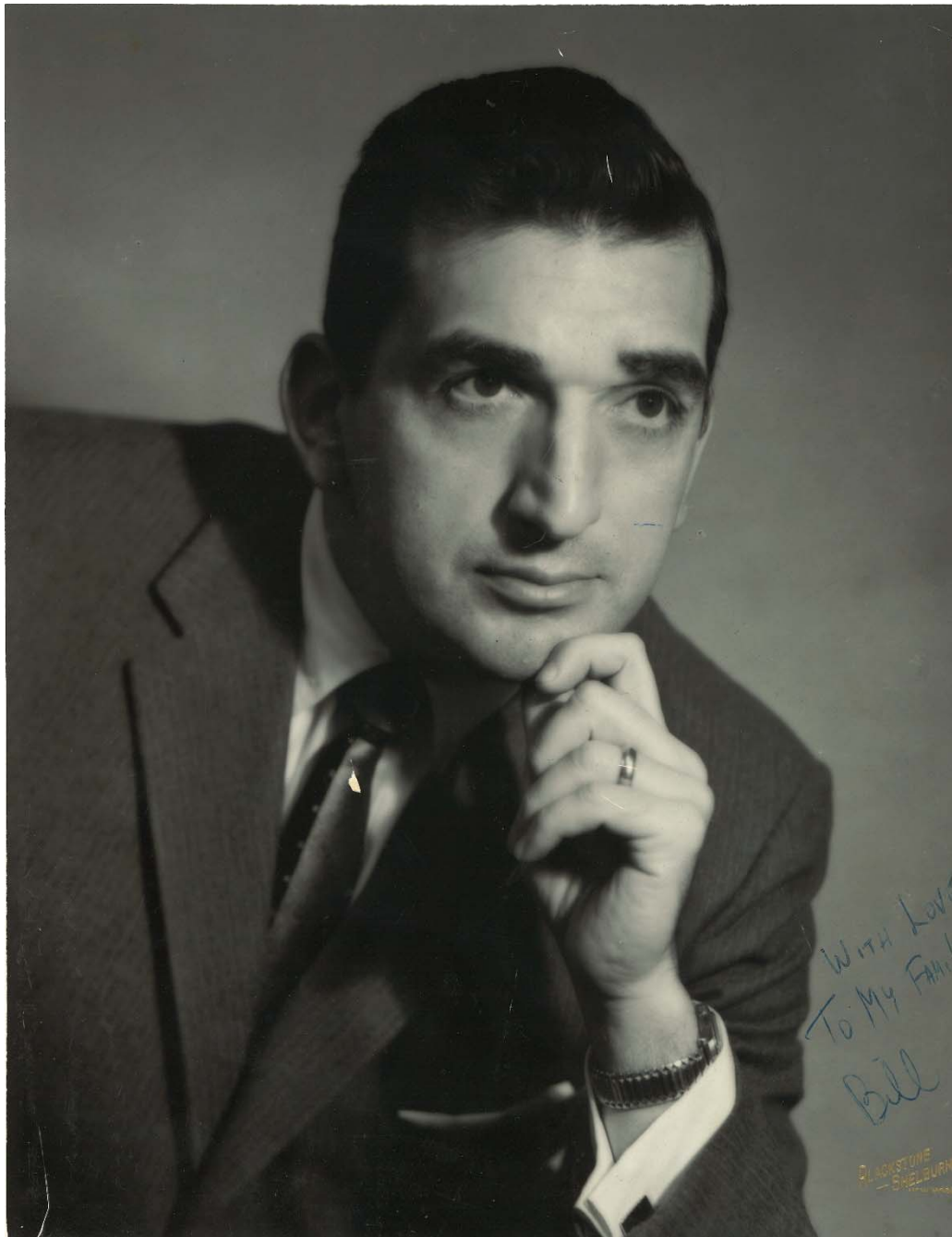


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Letters to the Editor, Op Eds, and Articles

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Iraq, Israel don't compare

Some groundless and convoluted statements have been made recently comparing Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait with Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and Israel's incursion into Lebanon.

Both Jordan, which controlled the West Bank, and Egypt, which controlled Gaza, attacked Israel. It was only by defending against these attacks that Israel came to occupy those territories. Moreover, whereas Israel made its incursion into Lebanon as a defense to the Palestine Liberation Organization's virtually daily attacks against Israel, Iraq attacked Kuwait on a purely offensive basis. Indeed, Kuwait's contributions to Iraq of billions of dollars over the years could hardly be considered a threat.

Any comparison between Israel's position vis-à-vis the occupied territories and Lebanon, and Iraq's position vis-à-vis Kuwait is as logical as Saddam Hussein's statement that he was invited into Kuwait by the Kuwaiti people.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



We're letting the Arabs manipulate us

How hostile dictatorships become heroes in the United States: They allow wild groups to kidnap Americans in areas under their control (such as Syrian-controlled Lebanon). They don't do anything for four or five years while our people are caged like animals, then announce that their release is imminent.

If Syria or Iran wanted our citizens released, they could have forced their captors to release them at any time. The transparency of the drastically modified Syrian and Iranian attitude toward the U.S. is obvious. The collapse of the Soviet Union has forced them to realize that they had to nurture a new type of relationship with the U.S.

Thus it behooved them to announce the release of our citizens in order to make it appear that they were responsible for the freedom of the hostages.

In addition, the U.S. has virtually become Syria's agent by trying to force Israel to return the Golan Heights and also by pressuring Israel to release Arabs imprisoned for various crimes. American hostages for Arab criminals does not exactly appear to be a fair exchange. The U.S. also has agreed to release more than \$250 million to Iran that was in dispute since the overthrow of the shah.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Throwing rocks doesn't lead to peace

Would the United States have ceased its occupation of Japan if the Japanese had thrown rocks and killed and kidnapped American GIs?

Would the U.S., France and Great Britain have left Germany if the Germans had thrown rocks and killed and kidnapped their soldiers?

Israel should politely inform the Palestinians, the Syrians and the other Arab and Muslim countries that it will return to a peace conference when there is a peaceful atmosphere.

Until then, Israel should refuse to return to the so-called peace conference, which the Palestinians and the Syrians think Israel came to only to meekly return to its pre-1967 status in exchange for a nebulous peace.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

No comparison between Israel, Iraq

Several allegations have been made recently that the United Nations is utilizing a double standard in its treatment of Iraq and Israel.

To equate Israel's expulsion of the 415 members of Hamas with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait — with the plunder, oil fires, murders and its violation of the cease-fire agreement since the day it was signed — is like comparing someone who has run a red light with a serial killer.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Would Palestinian 'cops' stop Hamas?

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's idea of creating a strong Palestinian police force before the establishment of autonomy would give Israelis the opportunity to see why peace with the Palestinians now is not possible.

Could you picture a Palestinian policeman stopping a member of Hamas and asking him, "Where are you going with that AK-47 slung over your shoulder?" Or stopping a truck loaded with rockets and asking the driver "where are you going with those rockets?"

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Ridiculing Clinton makes us ridiculous

I have come to the conclusion that the media are a menace.

I was in London when all the hullabaloo over President Clinton's haircut was going on. Do you realize how other countries laugh at our silliness?

We try to teach our children to be respectful, yet we act like uncultured children in not showing respect to the person in the highest office in the land.

Let us not be the laughingstock of the rest of the world.

Barbara Flanigan
Jupiter

Let 'peace-loving' Syria halt proxy war

Syria is waging war against Israel by proxy. No objective person can deny that Syria controls Lebanon. How could Katyusha rockets, mortars, other ammunition and men be getting into southern Lebanon without Syria's permission?

These men who are called Hezbollah are almost daily firing into Israel and Israel's security zone.

"Peace-loving" Syria should stop this activity immediately if it really has changed its stripes.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Arbitration editorial was pandering

Regarding your editorial "And the beat goes on": *The Post's* apparent contempt for the rule of law and the rights of individuals is shocking. Surely, you recognize that the same hard-won protection of freedom of the press also assures fair treatment and the right to be heard, and preserves the notion that punishment shall be proportionate to the offense. Why, then, the bitterness of this editorial?

The editorial panders to public anger over individual cases and is misleading because it glosses over some facts while omitting others.

Delray Beach police officer Joseph DiGiovanni lost three months' pay for his offense. Former West Palm Beach officer Glen Thurlow was tried and found *not* guilty of murdering Robert Jewett. Lake Worth officer Tom Brown was busted to patrolman, suspended without pay and lost command of his unit for his transgression.

Israel must issue Syria an ultimatum

Between July 6 and 9, five Israeli soldiers were killed and several wounded protecting northern Israel and the security zone in Lebanon from Hezbollah and the Palestinians who have been shooting Katyusha rockets into Israel and attacking soldiers from a base in southern Lebanon. Syria irrefutably controls Lebanon.

What would the United States do if some Mexican nationalists who wanted Texas back were shooting rockets and attacking residents of Texas?

Israel should do what the U.S. would do — deliver an ultimatum: Either Syria stops these attacks immediately or Syria will suffer the consequences.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

OPINION

Israel needs to stand up to Syria to stop attacks

Syría controls Lebanon. Syria could stop the Hezbollah and Palestinian attacks against northern Israel whenever it wants to. Instead, Syria has warned Israel that if it attacks the Hezbollah in Lebanon, it will be considered an attack against Syria.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Would you want to enter into an agreement with someone who permits attacks against you from territory that he controls and then, to compound the felony, says that if you attack the at-

tackers, he will consider it an attack against him? Israel should take its head out of the sand and tell Syrian President Hafez Assad that if he does not stop the Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, his own country will feel the brunt of Israel's power.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Don't think of firing Mayor Graham

About the two recent letters to the editor suggesting that Mayor Nancy Graham be fired, we deeply resent even the thought of such a move.



Mayor Graham.

Mayor Graham has done more for the residents of our city in her short tenure as mayor than all the other mayors put together during the 16 years we have lived in West Palm Beach.

The people of this community voted overwhelmingly for a fair, tough, no-nonsense mayor, and thank goodness that is what we have now.

Keep up the good work, Mayor Graham.

Roy Moersch
West Palm Beach

Clinton must make sacrifices, too

Like Perry's column about how little the pro-

Yes, applaud Assad – for good acting

Syrian President Hafez Assad has been receiving plaudits from the United States and Israel for persuading the Hezbollah to cease firing Katyusha rockets into Israel.



Assad

Were these plaudits justified? The facts are relatively simple. Syria controls Lebanon. Syria has not only permitted the Hezbollah to operate, Syria also helped transfer the Hezbollah, arms and ammunition to southern Lebanon.

When Assad, the genius of brinkmanship and propaganda, realized that Israel and the U.S. were no longer going to tolerate the rockets, his alleged “no control” over the Hezbollah was converted to convincing the Hezbollah to stop firing into Israel.

Assad does deserve plaudits, — not for his temporary halt to the Hezbollah firing but for his ability to make people think that he is the “good guy” when actually he was involved in the very activity that caused the problem in the first place.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Israel needs buffer zone to save lives

Israel's policy appears to be that as long as terrorists in Lebanon do not fire rockets into Israel, Israel's response to the murders of Israeli soldiers in the security zone will be relatively mild.

This is a flawed concept. Israel is in the "security zone" in Lebanon to protect its citizens from attack. These terrorists and their rockets could only have gotten to Lebanon with the full permission of Syria and Lebanon. They want to do their part to drive Israel into the sea.

What are Israel's options? 1) Israel could withdraw from the security zone; 2) it could continue its present policy; 3) Israel could establish a broad enough no man's land beyond the range of rockets.

No. 3 is the only feasible option. Israel must deliver an ultimatum to Syria and Lebanon. It is an extreme solution; however, it is the only procedure that will save Israeli lives and protect Israel.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Here's another peace plan for Mideast to consider

Here's a simple formula for Middle East peace. Israel will agree to leave all of the West Bank except East Jerusalem, and Israel will agree to leave all of the Golan Heights on Jan. 1, 1999, under the following conditions:

- All Muslim countries in the Mideast and Africa will immediately exchange ambassadors with Israel.

- The economic boycott against Israel will end immediately.

- There will be no trade barriers between the Muslim countries and Israel.

- Arms shipments to Muslim countries and Israel will cease immediately.

- Muslim countries' borders will be open to all Israeli citizens and Israel's borders will be open to citizens of the Muslim countries.

- All negative propaganda by the controlled press, radio and TV in the various countries will cease immediately.

If there are violations of the above, or if attacks on Israeli citizens do not cease, the present "status quo" will remain in effect indefinitely.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Let's not rush to remove any stars from Old Glory

Suppose a president were elected on a platform that unequivocally stated that under no circumstances would the United States return Texas to Mexico and under no circumstances would we deal with Pancho Villa.

Let us also suppose that with the president's knowledge, members of his Cabinet met with Pancho and worked out a secret deal with the president's approval that Texas would be returned to Mexico.

What would Congress and the U.S. public do under those circumstances?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Syrian president's remark to Arafat undermines pact

Youssef Ibrahim in his Sept. 12 article in *The New York Times*' "The Week in Review" quoted Syria's President Hafez Assad's statement to Yasser Arafat: "I will not oppose this agreement, but I will help anyone who does. This deal is destined to die."

If Assad was quoted accurately, how can Israel consider making any kind of a Golan Heights deal with him?

It also indicates that he will continue allowing his proxies to use their nefarious activities in south Lebanon.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Wily Assad will help kill peace accord

Youssef Ibrahim, in his Sept. 12 article in *The New York Times* "Week in Review," quoted Syrian President Hafez Assad's statement to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat: "I will not oppose this agreement, but I will help anyone who does. This deal is destined to die."



Assad

It also indicates that he will continue to allow his proxies (the Hezbollah and others) to continue their nefarious activities in southern Lebanon.

If Assad was quoted accurately, how can Israel consider making any kind of a Golan Heights deal with him?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Israel must rely on itself, not American 'guarantees'

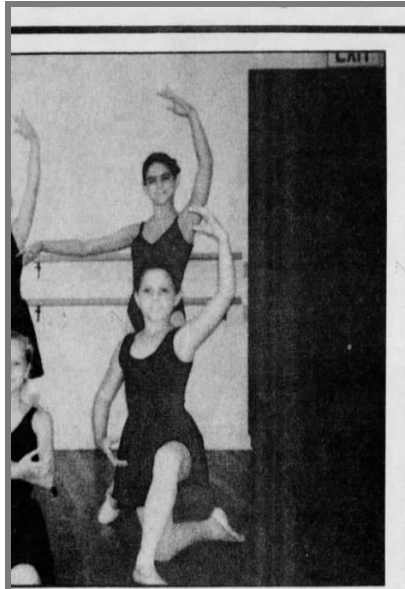
Edward Djerejian, our assistant secretary of state for near east affairs, has recently stated that the United States is prepared to guarantee agreements signed by Israel and Syria with respect to the Golan Heights.

Based upon the dissension and equivocation in the U.S. pertaining to our roles in Vietnam, Taiwan, Somalia and Bosnia, it would be foolhardy for Israel to rely upon such guarantees.

Golda Meir once said that U.S. guarantees are great, but "by the time you get here, we won't be here."

Israel must make its Golan decisions predicated upon its own strength, as it has done since 1948.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach



1993 FILE PHOTO

Amber Maynard, Lauren Durning, Nina Di Pierro, performance of *The Nutcracker*.

nce more than once

can get tickets.

The Nutcracker is a complex ballet to undertake, and credit should also be given to the ballet company producing the show, as well as the students appearing in it.

Richard Lussky
North Palm Beach

Editor's note: Jill Harrison, the girls' instructor and owner of Jill's Dance Center in Jupiter, says they will perform in the Miami City Ballet production scheduled Dec. 4-6. The Names and Faces column is not intended to provide such information as how to get tickets; check TGIF.

express purpose of providing jobs for the unemployed. The plan was a great success.

President Clinton should emulate this plan. It would do a world of good.

Mannie Blau
West Palm Beach

Israel can't rely on U.S. guarantees

Edward Djerejian, our assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, recently stated that the United States is prepared to guarantee agreements signed by Israel and Syria with respect to the Golan Heights.

Based on the dissension over the U.S. role in Vietnam, Taiwan, Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina,

it would be foolhardy for Israel to rely upon such guarantees.

The late Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir once said that U.S. guarantees are great, but "by the time you get here, we won't be here."

Israel must make its Golan decisions based on its own strength, as it has done since 1948.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Gardens' golf course well above par

I'm writing this letter on behalf of our 20-person Pratt & Whitney Employees Club Golf League. It seems that all we get is bad press about the Palm Beach Gardens Municipal course, where we play each week during the summer. Our league thinks this jewel is the best-kept secret in the county. We enjoy playing the course, which can be as easy or as tough as we make it for ourselves.

Most of all, the staff and management of the course treat us great. Everyone is friendly, courteous and gracious.

Mike Maguire, secretary
Pratt & Whitney Employees Club Golf League
Jupiter

Immigrants really don't have it easy

I'd like to comment on the letter "Care for our own before immigrants": I am a Canadian who moved to West Palm Beach in November 1989 with my American husband and three Canadian-born daughters.

In order to enter this country, we had to be sponsored by an American other than my husband; have medical exams by both American and Canadian doctors; pass an AIDS test; undergo psychological testing; have some knowledge of U.S. history, and for the final straw, sign papers stating we would never apply for any U.S. assistance such as welfare or food stamps.

After two years here, my husband and I had to prove we were still married and living together. If this was not done, then the girls and I were to be deported.

It's my conclusion that in order to live in this country without problems, you must not be white or English-speaking with a profession!

Paula A. Darling
Lake Worth

WRITE US

The Palm Beach Post welcomes letters from readers. Please keep them short, 150 words maximum. Letters are subject to editing. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be sent by fax to (407) 287-0241 or mailed to:

Letters to the Editor
The Palm Beach Post
Martin bureau
969 S. U.S. 1, Suite 300
Stuart, FL 34994

Get past surface euphoria to what's really going on

A handshake is a handshake is a handshake. Much has been said about the famous Arafat-Rabin handshake.

There have been some other famous handshakes which did not prove to be very successful. The Hitler-Chamberlain Munich handshake resulted in "Peace in our Time" for a few months. Stalin and Hitler shook hands by remote control before the start of World War II. That handshake lasted until Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. The Stalin-Roosevelt-Churchill Yalta handshake laid the seeds for the Cold War.

It would be prudent to cool the euphoria and calmly follow the meetings and the events in the Middle East.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Archives | 1994

The Road That Led to Hebron; Apologies Never Made

MARCH 2, 1994

To the Editor:

No reasonable person can fail to be revolted by the slaying of Arabs by Baruch Goldstein at Hebron. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel immediately phoned Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and apologized for the tragic incident, which was committed by one person.

Has Mr. Arafat once apologized to the Israeli people for the many Israelis who have been slain and wounded in the constant series of attacks since the signing of the agreement in Washington? Has any Arab ever apologized for the Arabs who applauded and cheered as Iraqi Scuds were falling on Israel? Has any Arab ever apologized for the massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich by Arab terrorists?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 26, 1994

U.S. must stop bogus bills' circulation

On July 1, 1992, U.S. Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Winter Park, and the House Task Force on Terrorism called a news conference in which he stated that he had solid evidence that large quantities of counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills were being manufactured by the government of Iran and were being distributed by the governments of Iran and Syria.

Yossef Bodansky, the director of the task force, in his recent book *Terror*, documented the manufacture and distribution of these counterfeit bills.

The Dec. 6, 1993, edition of the *Bank Letter*, a respected publication, stated that billions and perhaps hundreds of billions of these bills have been circulating in the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The United States has the duty and obligation to investigate these charges. If they are true, the U.S. must take serious steps to stop these counterfeit U.S. bills.



Rep. McCollum

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Israelis are naive to believe Arafat

Naiveté, thy name is Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

When PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat spoke to Muslims in South Africa, he told them in unequivocal words that Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine via a jihad. Mr. Peres accepted Arafat's warped "peaceful" interpretation of his remarks. Mr. Rabin has said that he wants Arafat to reiterate that he wants peace with Israel.

Based on Arafat's previous agreements that he has broken with impunity, and based on his words in South Africa, no reasonably prudent person should rely upon Arafat adhering to any agreement, whether he agrees to its validity twice or 2,000 times.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Arafat has shown worth of his word in past

“Naivete” thy name is Rabin and Peres.

When Arafat spoke to Muslims in South Africa, he told them in unequivocal words that Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine via a *jihad* (holy war).

Peres accepted Arafat’s warped “peaceful” interpretation of his remarks in South Africa.

Rabin has said that he wants Arafat to reiterate that Arafat wants peace with Israel.

Based upon Arafat’s previous agreements with Arabs, which he has broken with impunity, and based upon his own words in South Africa when the ink in the Cairo pact was hardly dry, no reasonably prudent person should rely upon Arafat’s adhering to any agreement even if he agrees to its validity twice or 2,000 times.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Only a strong, secure Israel can enforce Mideast peace

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin insists that a peace treaty with Syria is necessary to prevent a war. One of Mr. Rabin's main arguments is that the Scuds Syria possesses would make the Scuds that Iraq used in the Persian Gulf War "look like children's play."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the leader of a country to say that he wants a peace treaty with a serious adversary because he fears their weapons is a sure road to disaster. If Israel were to leave the Golan Heights, Syria

would still pose the same threat with the same Scuds; however, Israel would no longer have the ability to be in Damascus in a few minutes.

Israel's control of the Golan with the threat to Damascus is the very reason that Syria has not and would not dare to launch a Scud or any other type of attack against Israel.

Strength, not weakness, prevents war.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

who are trying to support our families. We must fight for all money received by HRS for our children's benefit.

Patty Cole
Jupiter

Give us some facts on pier's impact

About your editorial "Call Jupiter's bluff," I am utterly appalled by the biases, half-truths, innuendoes and just plain misstatements dealing with what has become (thanks in part to *The Post*) a highly emotional pier issue.

I have yet to see a solitary fact in print that will help voters decide whether they're for or against the fishing-pier project. Rather than fanning the fires and taking sides, why not publish pier construction plans, costs, engineering studies, environmental impact studies and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studies on beach erosion? Also report the impact on Palm Beach County's budget from insurance, maintenance and expanded public services.

Only then can the people rationally decide.

Leopold M. Grant
Jupiter

Try Donahue's idea - with an abortion

Israeli presence in Golan needed for its security

Prime Minister Rabin insists that a peace treaty with Syria is necessary to prevent a war. One of Rabin's main arguments is that the Scuds which Syria now possesses would make the Scuds that Iraq used in the Gulf War "look like children's play."

For a leader of a country to say that he wants to enter into a peace treaty with a serious adversary because he fears their weapons is a sure road to disaster. If Israel were to leave the Golan, Syria would still pose the same threat with the same Scuds; however, Israel would no longer have the ability to be in Damascus in a few minutes.

Israel's control of the Golan, with the threat to Damascus, is the very reason that Syria has not and would not dare to launch a Scud or any other attack against Israel. Strength, not weakness, prevents war.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Many more reasons not to trust Syria

J.J. Goldberg ended his recent Opinion article "Jewish right wing in the U.S. tries to sabotage peace process" (a reprint of his article from *The New York Times*) with the words "trust is crucial."

Please tell us why the United States should trust Syria, which distributes billions of dollars in counterfeit U.S. currency and billions of dollars' worth of drugs? Or why the U.S. or Israel should trust the country that has refused to leave Lebanon after it signed an agreement to leave? Or why Israel should trust a nation that allows the Hezbollah to operate against Israel with impunity while denying that it has any control of these terrorists? Or why the U.S. or Israel should trust Syria, which is the training ground, sponsor and home of many of the worst terrorist organizations in the world?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

The Peaceable Kingdom

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND. TOBY THE BUFFALO NEWS

LIONS, LAMBS AND GROUSE

Israel and United States need to question Syria

Rabin and the United States are pushing very hard for Israel to enter into a peace treaty with Syria. Perhaps if the citizens of the United States and Israel were aware of Syria's behavior, past and present, they would not want Israel to lose the Golan, which is the main deterrent to a Syrian attack.

The State Department and the government of Israel should answer the following questions for their respective publics:

1. Is Syria aiding and/or abetting the distribution of huge quantities of counterfeit U.S. currency?
2. Is Syria aiding and/or abetting the distribution of large quantities of drugs?
3. Is Syria aiding and/or abetting the Hezbollah to function in southern Lebanon?
4. Is Syria now in violation of its agreement with Lebanon, in which Syria promised to leave Lebanon by summer 1991?
5. Is Syria the training ground for terrorist groups and individuals?
6. Has Syria ever housed terrorists sought by the United States, Israel and other countries?
7. Were the terrorists who blew up the Marine base in Lebanon trained in Syria?

If the answers are "yes", how could any reasonably prudent policymaker in the United States or Israel want to deal with Assad?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

S W C THE PALM BEACH POST TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994 19A

'No-tank zone' would help keep Hussein at home

Saddam Hussein's recent moves close to the Kuwaiti border have caused the United States to send substantial quantities of soldiers and supplies to Kuwait and the Persian Gulf.

We should not be in the unenviable position of responding with massive troop movements every time Hussein's forces threaten Kuwait.

We now have a "no-fly" zone that precludes Iraqi planes from flying in certain areas of northern Iraq. We should implement a similar zone to prevent Iraqi tanks and heavy artillery from entering certain areas of southern Iraq.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

About the Garfinkel family, who have a complaint against the Palm Beach County school system ("Parents of deaf child say public school falls short"):

Early intervention is a new effort to aid our special-needs children. The goal is to help each of these children gain the necessary skills for school. If the Garfinkel child needs to build language skills, then the individual education program should spell out each method: sign, speech therapy, lip reading, etc. The teacher and staff must comply with this program. The county must for its part provide the professionals for these tasks.

I was saddened by the quote from an attorney for the school district, Lee Rosenberg, in the article: "We must provide an appropriate education. Not the best one, but an appropriate one." How does our school system define *appropriate*? All means should be used to teach language skills to any child in need.

Our county has complied with the law but not with the spirit of the law. As a community, we should be insulted by a system that offers only an "appropriate" education to our children.

Isn't excellence a goal for all our students? We as parents should be able to say that all of our children are receiving the best opportunity for an excellent education. I wish the best of luck to this family. Hard work and fighting for the best will pay off.

Norma Jean Riccobene
Palm Beach Gardens

Our school district needs remediation

Quality of education goes way beyond school board elections. Recently, *The Palm Beach Post* has brought some issues out in the open — from the Garfinkels' fight for special-education rights to articles dealing with individuals not wanting to take responsibility and to the "reading/writing" issue ("Teachers want to drop drills to boost reading, writing").

Special-education advocates have been using the whole language approach for years. I fought with the system for five years to get my severely learning-disabled child out of the phonics program. Stagnant reading test scores (under that program) were ignored. Teachers in the gifted program are using this "new" approach. Our mainstream teachers need to go back to school. Our administrators could do well with some remediation.

Parents need to be educated as to what their rights are if their child is classified as learning-disabled. I am my child's advocate, but it has taken years of research and education on my part to be able to challenge the school system.

M.B. Goldstein
Palm Beach Gardens

Threat to Israel remains in Lebanon

The Clinton administration, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee have been promoting a peace treaty with Syria that would result in Israel relinquishing control of the Golan Heights.

Israel's very control of the Golan has prevented Syria from undertaking any direct adventure against Israel. Syria, with its physical control of approximately two-thirds of Lebanon, has indirectly caused

a great many Israeli casualties by permitting the Hezbollah to operate in southern Lebanon.

Do Mr. Clinton, et al., realize that if they strike a deal with Syria without forcing Syria to leave Lebanon, and without solving the Hezbollah problem, Israel would still have the festering problem of a Syrian military capability in southern Lebanon in conjunction with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Pat Robertson is no Louis Farrakhan

Richard Cohen, in "Pat Robertson sounds a lot like Farrakhan," distorts reality when he attempts to link anti-Semitism to religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, who has spent 35 years as a staunch defender of Israel and the Jewish people.

In his book, *The New World Order*, the Rev. Robertson writes that Israel and the Jewish people are the targets of — and not responsible for — this new world order. The Rev. Robertson believes this new world order could include a frontal assault on Israel. The Rev. Robertson warns against such a new world order, whether it is aimed at Jews or Christians.

Further, Pat Robertson's support for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel is well-documented. In January 1994, he received the Defender of Israel award at a Jewish-Christian solidarity rally in Washington. The Rev. Robertson has received national recognition for his work in fostering Jewish-Christian relations from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Pat Robertson is a friend and defender of Israel. Mr. Cohen's remarks — especially the comparison to Louis Farrakhan — are demeaning and offensive.

Gene Kapp
Christian Broadcasting Network
Virginia Beach, Va.

We demand justice for the children

It seems as though a week doesn't pass that a child isn't beaten to death by a parent. I, for one, can no longer accept this. Unless something is done to protect these children, it will continue. Let's get the kids off milk cartons and out of our mailboxes: Parents who will steal children over custody rights should pay dearly for their crimes.

The thug who beat Christina Holt to death should be put into a room with a few linebackers and given the same treatment, with hope of the same results, which he never gave any thought to.

It's crazy, when you think that it wasn't that long ago when a man could be hanged for stealing another man's horse. Today, men and women abuse, molest and kill children and are back on our streets in just a few years.

Nothing can be done to help Christina Holt now, but seeing to it that her killer and others like him are never again allowed to walk our streets would go a long way to protect the Christinas of the future.

Jim Grimes
West Palm Beach

Let's keep fighting to save children

It is with sheer outrage that those of us who are advocates for children have read the recent accounts of the murders of Christina Holt and the two infants from Royal Palm Beach.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Rev. Robertson

Talk of Mideast peace neglects role of Syria

Everyone is trying to evolve a procedure for Israel to vacate the Golan Heights.

But nobody has uttered one word about forcing Syria to leave Lebanon.

So consider this:

What kind of "real peace" would exist with Syria in the Golan and Syria in Lebanon denying that she has any responsibility for the acts of the Hezbollah and for the other terrorists groups operating in Lebanon?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

PALM BEACH
NORTH

JEWISH JOURNAL

NOV. 29, 1994

Israel must continue to rely upon itself

PRIME MINISTER RABIN IS in the U.S. pushing for American troops on the Golan to solidify a peace treaty with Syria. His theory is that American troops on the Golan would prevent a surprise Syrian attack.

Rabin's great desire to have peace with Syria has blinded him to reality.

Assad with a "straight face" has continuously denied that he has any relationship with the Hezbollah in South Lebanon who have been causing many deaths and injuries to Israeli soldiers and who have been shooting Katyusha rockets into Northern Israel.

What is to prevent Assad with that same "straight face" to deny that "terrorists" over whom he allegedly has no control have started to kill American soldiers on the Golan. These killings would so infuriate the American public that we would demand the return of our soldiers a la Somalia and Lebanon.

Rabin's basic security premise for giving the Golan to Syria in exchange for peace with Syria, would collapse if the American troops were forced to leave the Golan.

Israel has always militarily relied upon herself since her inception. Israel must continue to rely upon herself if she wishes to remain a country.

Basically, Israel must decide whether or not she should relinquish the tangible Golan, which has deterred Syria from aggression since 1973, for an intangible agreement with Assad.

William K. Langfar
Palm Beach



Hussein just trying to get sanctions lifted

The rubber-stamp Iraqi Parliament has acknowledged that Kuwait "exists" a few weeks after Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, appeared on the brink of attacking Kuwait again. It is obvious that Hussein realized that he could no longer have the United Nations' sanctions lifted by the threat of force; thus, he is now trying to have them lifted through the "magnani-

mous" gesture of finally recognizing Kuwait. We should not let this transparent move by Hussein deceive us. The sanctions should remain in effect until Iraq complies with every item prescribed by the allies after the end of the Persian Gulf War.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Assad is obliged to denounce Hussein

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak recently met in Egypt with Syria's President Hafez Assad and Saudi King Fahd and discussed how "to re-integrate Iraq into the Arab camp to confront Israel," according to an official communique.



Assad

If Hussein has the right to make such a request, these three peace leaders have the obligation to denounce his request in the strongest language and to state unequivocally that he is not welcome in their camp.

Failure to make such an immediate response should give Israel pause in trying to arrange any deal with President Assad.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Don't be backed into a Golan corner

Former Secretary of State James Baker, Yitzhak Rabin's administration, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the American Israeli Political Action Committee and others who favor U.S. troops on the Golan Heights have continually stated that it is "premature" for Congress to study the feasibility of stationing American troops there as part of the Mideast peace settlement.



Mr. Rabin

Israel's Prime Minister Rabin and the other "premature advocates" want U.S. troops on the Golan because they know that the majority of Israelis would not approve of Israel's divestiture of the strategic area without having U.S. troops there.

What they are trying to accomplish with the "premature" concept is to have Israel and Syria sign an agreement with the U.S. troops as the "linchpin" and then face Congress with a *fait accompli*.

Congress should have the opportunity of carefully weighing all the facts and opinions without having a sword over its head before making a judgment.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Wimpish reaction won't budge Hussein

Americans can be nothing but appalled by the latest episode of Iraqi disregard for human decency, the sentencing of the two Americans alleged to have been trespassing to an eight-year term in prison. This is additional evidence of the failure of former President George Bush's "one day too soon" policy on ending the Persian Gulf War.

And here they come again, standard State Department responses. They vow "aggressive diplomatic efforts," which to the State Department is a "sharp reaction." They also promised the "Butcher of Baghdad" that there would be no military action and calmed the American public by telling us that the Iraqis really don't intend to keep the Americans eight years; more than likely it will be a year or two. They are also appealing to the Iraq government on a humanitarian basis.

Let's get with it and get down in the dirt with them.



Iraq's Saddam Hussein

First, withdraw the visas from any Iraqis in this country and give them one week to leave. Second, draw a circle with a 2-mile diameter for Iraqi diplo-

mat at the United Nations. Tell them, "Step out of the circle and you will be detained as a trespasser." We have done this before, when we were not on friendly terms with the Russians.

No more Mr. Nice Guy.

Bob Eckstein
Boynton Beach

Ask U.N. to extend sanctions against Iraq

Iraq's failure to release the two Americans who accidentally crossed into Iraqi territory has clearly shown the world that Iraq wants to remain an "out-law" nation.

The United States should immediately ask the United Nations Security Council to vote that one month of additional sanctions against Iraq will be added for each day of incarceration from the date of passage of the resolution.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Derail what 'peace process'?

After every new terrorist attack, the words which surely follow are: "Don't allow this terrorist attack to derail the peace process." These same words will be quoted after every attack until all or most of the West Bank will be controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Will the terrorist attacks ever stop?

Based upon the facts which have unfolded since the "Handshake," the West Bank will be the Palestinian Authority "Territory."

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Apply Rabin's ultimatum to Arafat, too

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a brilliant suggestion with respect to Israel's control of the "security zone" in southern Lebanon. He said that if there were complete tranquility in the zone for six months, Israeli troops would leave and return to Israel.



Arafat

The prime minister should make a similar statement to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat: No further control of any of the West Bank will be given to the Palestinian Authority unless there is absolute peacefulness in Israel and the West Bank for a period of six months. In the event that a terrorist attack were to occur, the six-month period would be extended from the date of the occurrence. If four attacks were to take place from the starting date, attempts to deal with Arafat would cease. Israeli troops would retake control of Jericho, and the Gaza Strip would be sealed from Israel and the West Bank.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

dumber" trend.

John T. Foti
Palm Beach Gardens

Quayle wrong on need for tort reform

On May 29, former Vice President Dan Quayle participated in a five-person panel discussion chaired by Arthur Miller of Harvard Law School at the Connecticut Forum in New Haven. The program was broadcast live on C-SPAN, and the topic was legal reform.



Mr. Quayle

Mr. Quayle again proved what we all already knew: "A mind is a terrible thing to lose." The former vice president's only contribution to the debate was a rehashing of his speech to the American Bar Association three years ago calling for national tort reform.

Mr. Quayle is to be pitied. The National Center for State Courts' most recent report says there is no evidence of a tort litigation explosion. In fact, nationally, overall tort filings have declined 6 percent since 1991.

The only area in civil law in which filings have been consistently decreasing since 1986 is tort law, an area Mr. Quayle loves to vilify and about which he apparently knows next to nothing.

Edward M. Ricci, attorney
West Palm Beach

Animal abuse deliberate, not mistake

In response to the letter "Yule made a mistake — but prison?": I do not know Michael Yule, either. Nonetheless, is not 21 an age of reason and/or responsibility for one's behavior? Should we allow animal abusers to go unpunished as we did the man who drowned a raccoon in Jupiter? He got a slap on the wrist, resigned his license to trap and continued trapping. Is this also a mistake? Stop the first mistake, and you will stop the second.

Paula Canini
Jupiter

Europeans shouldn't condemn Israel

The Israeli use of eminent domain with respect to a small segment of Arab-owned land in Jerusalem has caused the European Community to quickly condemn this Israeli act.

Jordan controlled the eastern part of Jerusalem

from 1948 until 1967. Every synagogue and the main Jewish cemetery were destroyed during that period by the predecessors of the present Palestinians. The headstones were used for paving streets. Jews were precluded from entering "East Jerusalem."

Did any European government ever emit one squeak to show disapproval of such horrible acts?

The European Community should concentrate on putting its own house in order rather than condemning the only country in the Middle East upon whom it can rely.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Swipe at New Yorkers was venomous

The column "Give our state a break today: Ban New Yorkers" is one of the most offensive I have seen in your paper since I came to Florida. Apparently, it was written by Frank Cerabino and was supposed to be a source of humor. I believe it more than missed its mark.

I was born and reared in the South and settled in New York after I was in my 30s. Now I am enjoying my retirement here. To me it is incredible that a newspaper columnist would paint all New Yorkers with a single brush. As in every community, there are a lot more good ones than bad ones.

New Yorkers have brought business here; they have brought their expertise in all fields to Florida; and they have invested their money in Florida. Their immigration seldom puts a strain on schools or on welfare rolls because they are, for the most part, retirees without young children and with sufficient finances to support themselves.

Frank Cerabino should look elsewhere to spew his venom. It would be nice if he and people who agree with him would take a good look at themselves. They would find that constructive criticism produces the desired results, whereas this kind of denigration has no place in today's world.

Leona M. Goldblatt
Delray Beach



M SL THE PALM BEACH POST MONDAY, JULY 17, 1995 5A

Is Golan giveaway a 1995 rendition of 'peace in our time'?

Is Secretary of State Warren Christopher wittingly or unwittingly playing the role of pre-World War II British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in his steadfast quest to force Israel to give the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for an alleged peace agreement?

Chamberlain in 1938 forced Czechoslovakia to cede the Sudetenland to Germany in his famous "peace in our time" Munich accord with Adolf Hitler. The leaders of Czechoslovakia acceded to Chamberlain's demand against their wishes.

The only difference is that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are glibly agreeing with Mr. Christopher to give the Golan to Syrian President Hafez Assad. Will history repeat itself after Assad possesses the Golan in conjunction with Lebanon, which he already controls?

We all know the Sudetenland "appetizer" whetted Hitler's appetite for the rest of Europe.



Secretary of State Warren Christopher

Assad would be on his way to establishing his dream of "Greater Syria" that would include Israel, Jordan and the West Bank.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



Opinion

September 11, 1995

Israel Has Given Peace, Palestinians Too Many Chances

William K. Langfan

Should Israel continue a so-called "Peace Process" in reliance upon what Arafat tells Peres, Rabin and the world in English; or should Israel take Arafat at his "Arabic word" and stop this process immediately?

On many occasions since the "handshake," the most recent of which was a speech which he delivered in Arabic to an audience at Gaza University on June 19, 1995, Arafat has called for a "jihad" (holy war) against Israel.

"Give peace a chance," and "that is the alternative" are the two most quoted arguments for continuing this alleged road to peace.

How can any sane rational person give control of the West Bank to anyone who calls for a holy war against Israel when he talks to his people, and talks "peace" when he is dealing with the present leaders of Israel? How can a nation rely upon a leader (Peres) who declared that a tape of the June 19 Arafat speech was a forgery, when Arafat later was forced to admit that the tape was accurate?

Peace has been given a chance and what does Israel have to show for it so far?

There have been more deaths than ever before with an alleged "peace" partner who repeatedly tells his people that we must continue the "jihad" while he is negotiation in what Peres and Rabin consider good faith.

The [Palestinian Authority](#) has committed violation after violation of the Oslo agreement. Should a reasonable rational Israeli expect improvement with the divestiture of more land to the Palestinian Authority?

Unfortunately, nobody presently has a solution to "what is the alternative"; however, to give control of land which Israel controls to one who repeatedly promises his people a holy war against Israel is definitely not the alternative.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

William K. Langfan, of Palm Beach, is founding principal of The Langfan Company a real-estate investment company.

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-1995-09-11-9509060245-story.html>

S W C THE PALM BEACH POST SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1995 15A

Let Farrakhan fulfill his responsibility

When African-Americans are finished congratulating each other on the success of the Million Man March on Washington, the more difficult job of turning words into action must be undertaken.

Instead of concerning himself with the pursuit of the high ideals set forth in his two-hour speech, the Nation of Islam's Louis Farrakhan threatened to sue the U.S. Park Police for underestimating the number of march participants.

It also was reported that in a congratulatory telephone call from Libya's Col. Moammar Gadhafi, Minister Farrakhan referred to Gadhafi as his "beloved brother" and said that the world's Muslims could unite and defy the sanctions the United Nations imposed on Libya. If Mr. Farrakhan admires Gadhafi, recognized as a notorious dictator and an anathema to world peace and democracy, it is incumbent upon all leaders to speak out against this antithesis of what America stands for. If it is important to condemn the racists of the world, then it is imperative to

expose the destructiveness of demagogues.

Milton Leifer
West Palm Beach

Farrakhan's rhetoric has basic flaw

Minister Louis Farrakhan ceaselessly criticizes Jewish people and others who have invested in black areas as "bloodsuckers" because they developed business in black neighborhoods and allegedly used their profits elsewhere.

Minister Farrakhan's premise is fundamentally flawed, because anyone in our country who makes an investment has the right to use whatever benefits accrue as he or she wishes. Mr. Farrakhan should concentrate his oratorical ability to implore his black "brothers" to learn how to invest and run businesses rather than emit generalized, hateful calumnies against people of various nationalities and religions.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Rabin's death shocking; rule of law must prevail

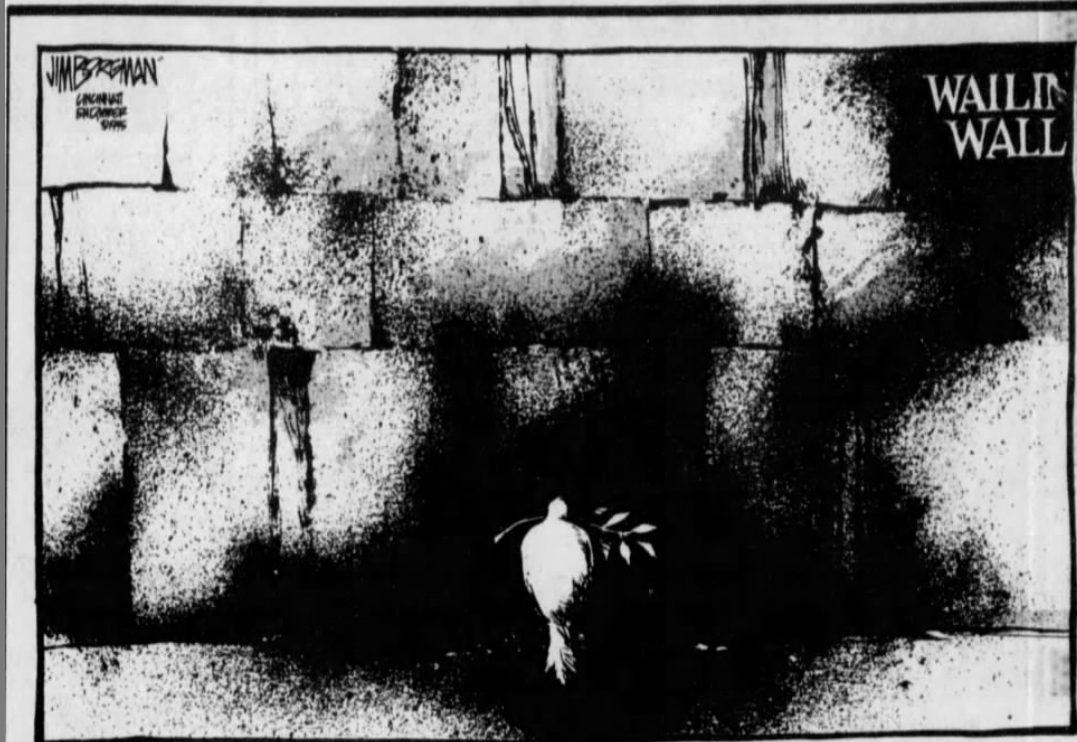
Nobody disagreed with Prime Minister Rabin's recent policies more than I and nobody could be more deeply shocked and saddened than I by his tragic assassination.

People in democracies must take pride in the fact that we live by the rule of law. Votes, not bullets, must decide who leads a country.

The person who committed this heinous act must be dealt with quickly and harshly.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

S W C THE PALM BEACH POST TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1995 13A



Killers don't represent Israeli opposition

Yigal Amir, the killer of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Baruch Goldstein, who slaughtered the Arabs at Hebron, do not represent Jews who have opposed the so-called peace process. They are assassins who perpetrated insane acts to satisfy their own warped minds. No rational, thinking person is against peace. The road to peace is where reasonable people can and do disagree.

The underlying theme of the peace negotiations is: "Let's give peace a chance. We do not want our children to go to war anymore."

The thread that binds the opposition is that the security of the strategic depth of the West

Bank should not be given to an entity that has a charter containing a series of covenants calling for the destruction of Israel and whose leader still exhorts his followers to continue a jihad against Israel.

In order to more fully comprehend the dilemma of the Israeli contrarians, we should reexamine our own divisive Vietnam debates when our *very* survival was *not* an issue.

We also should remember that "peace in our time" in 1938 was war in 1939.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

even Bosnians — to disarm the mines. Why use our youth to clean up somebody else's problems? Maybe Secretary of State Warren Christopher could set up a volunteer station in Bosnia to start this project.

Shepley Titcomb
Royal Palm Beach

No orders at Hooters for these buns

Why should the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission destroy a restaurant chain by demanding that at least 40 percent of the servers be males and demanding that the chain set aside \$20 million to compensate males who should have been employed?

I have never been to a Hooters restaurant, nor do I expect to ever go to one. The concept of the restaurant chain — having scantily clad Hooters girls serving gawking customers — has proved successful for the chain and satisfying to its customers.

Based on the reasoning (if it can be called reasoning) that the EEOC used in the Hooters case, strip joints will soon be required to have 40 percent of their strippers be men; so-called massage parlors will be required to have 40 percent of their masseurs

be men; and stadiums will be required to have female football, baseball and basketball teams play 40 percent of the scheduled games.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

WRITE US

The *Palm Beach Post* welcomes letters from readers. Please keep them short; in general, the preferred limit is 150 words. Letters may be edited to that length. Letters *must* include the writer's full name, address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters, 'open letters' or letters to a third party will not be published. You may receive a phone call for verification. Letters may be sent by fax to (407) 287-0241 or mailed to:

Letters to the Editor
The Palm Beach Post
Martin bureau
969 S. U.S. 1, Suite 300
Stuart, FL 34994

Assad is unworthy of Israel's trust

The new secret round of "peace" talks between Israel and Syria began Dec. 27 at the Wye Plantation Center in Maryland. Syrian President Hafez Assad's demands are simple. Israel must leave the entire Golan Heights; Israel and the United States must



Assad

acknowledge Syria's hegemony over Lebanon; the U.S. will agree to furnish Syria with economic aid. Assad's "contribution" is to convert himself from a wolf into a lamb. Will he be a lamb or will he be a wolf in sheep's clothing?

Assad has not exhibited one iota of change in his attitude toward Israel. On the contrary, his insistence that Syria keep control of Lebanon reiterates his long-held desire for a "Greater Syria" that includes Lebanon, "Palestine" and Jordan.

Furthermore, Assad's assertion that Syria must have dominion over Lebanon is a direct contradiction of Syria's promise to leave Lebanon in 1992. If one of Syria's conditions for peace is a violation of its promise to Lebanon, should Israel expect Syria to adhere to a peace agreement?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Project Lake Worth Road extension

Golan giveaway is 'peace in our time'

The letter "Israel knows it must sacrifice for peace" criticizes people who have written to *The Post* stating their negative positions on "giving away" the Golan Heights. Has the writer forgotten that Syria fired artillery shells from the Golan Heights into Israel from 1948 until 1967?

Does he not realize that Syria, through its Hezbollah proxies, has been attacking Israel from Lebanon and that the Hezbollah have fired Katyusha rockets into Israel as recently as a few weeks ago? Is he aware of the fact that virtually every terrorist organization in the Middle East is based in Syria?

Based on the reasoning exhibited in his letter, this writer would have accepted the 1938 handshake between Germany's Adolf Hitler and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain with joy.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

s THE PALM BEACH POST THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1996 17A



Arafat's words prove he can't be trusted

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and his followers, in 1964 (before Israel controlled the West Bank and Gaza Strip), created the infamous covenants calling for the complete destruction of Israel.

The Labor Party in Israel later decided that the only path to peace in the Middle East was to have a "peace partner." Why did Labor choose a "partner" who had caused more harm to Israel for 30-plus years than any person alive?

If anyone can answer that, I would also like an answer to the question: Why should Prime Minister Shimon Peres want to continue a partnership with someone who has failed to control terrorism

and who has continued the same anti-Israel rhetoric every time he has given a speech in Arabic?

Mr. Peres and his majority in the Knesset have heard and seen enough tapes of Mr. Arafat's diatribes, and Israel has suffered more than enough deaths and casualties since the handshake, to make anyone — even if deaf, dumb and blind — realize that Mr. Arafat has not changed his "stripes" or his tune. Mr. Arafat and his followers will not rest until Israel has been destroyed.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Read Arafat's intent between the lines

In 1964, Yasser Arafat and his cronies created the infamous covenants "in blood" to destroy Israel — three years before Israel controlled the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has stated that unless the covenants are annulled, he will not continue the so-called peace process.

I believe that whether the covenants are rescinded is irrelevant.

The newly elected Palestinian Authority president has declared on many occasions, in referring to the peace agreements reached in Oslo, Norway, that Prophet Mohammed had signed agreements with enemies when the Muslims were not strong enough to prevail and abrogated the agreements as soon as they were able to overcome the other side.

One need not be a genius to comprehend why Mr. Arafat couples the two postulates.

If we combine the references to Oslo and Mohammed's violated pacts with Mr. Arafat's glorification of the "martyrs" who gave their lives in the kill-



ing of Israelis and his oft-stated plan to decimate Israel in stages, it is not difficult to arrive at the conclusion that Mr. Arafat is on the road to accomplishing

his promise to destroy Israel.

I hope that Israelis will open their eyes before it is too late.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

'Banana republic' bonds aren't needed

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin recently announced that the United States is considering inflation-indexed Treasury bonds.



Mr. Rubin

If this happened, the value of all bonds would drop precipitously. And, once this type of bond was issued, the spread in value between non-indexed and indexed bonds could become so great that few people would want non-indexed bonds anymore.

Corporations might be forced to issue indexed bonds, which could jeopardize their viability in the event of a sudden rise in the rate of inflation.

A country with the financial strength of the U.S., which has no problems selling bonds, should never consider selling "banana republic" bonds.

William Langfan
Palm Beach

I thought that Benjamin Netanyahu's victory in Israel would mean that I would no longer find it necessary to write letters warning of the dangers of the late Yitzhak Rabin's and outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres' hasty march to a dangerous peace.

Unfortunately, the various writers and commentators who were promoting the peace policies of the Israeli Labor party have chosen to continue their same ideas, oblivious to the fact that 60 percent of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the Jews who voted in Israel voted against giving the Golan Heights to Syria and against relying upon Palestinian Council President Yasser Arafat as a partner.

For example, one writer stated that the religious Jews caused Mr. Peres to lose. This writer conveniently failed to mention the fact that Israeli Arabs voted virtually unanimously for Mr. Peres. The writer of the Opinion article "Likud will reduce Israel to siege state" took the position that the "irrationalists" won and the "rationalists" lost. Some have written that the "peace process" is dead, as if the Labor Party had a monopoly on the road to peace.

If the writers who expressed this meant that the Peres process was dead, they were correct; however, they will find that Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu will diligently seek a peace that will afford Israelis the security they rightly deserve.

If Mr. Netanyahu is unable to reach peace with security, it would demonstrate that Mr. Arafat and/or Syria's Hafez Assad never really wanted peace.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



Opinion

June 25, 1996

Southern Baptists in 'double-header'

By: William K. Langfan

Southern Baptists in 'double-header'

The Southern Baptist Convention voted for a "double-header" - boycott Disney and convert Jews into Baptists.

The Southern Baptist hierarchy would serve their parishioners more wisely if they would preach love thy neighbor and respect their rights to have different views, practices and religions.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-1996-06-25-9606260196-story.html>

the Supreme Court's Clarence Thomas, was to return to an isolated but sadly significant incident.



Justice Thomas

On a stop at the supermarket in the area where Clarence Thomas as lived, I was in front of two women — obviously neighbors of his. I couldn't help but overhear their conversation, and have never forgotten it, which centered on the news of then-President Bush's appointment of Judge Thomas to the Supreme Court.

One of the women spoke up: "I've been a Republican all my life but no more. Bush had any number of highly qualified blacks to choose from to replace Thurgood Marshall, and I think there should be a black on the bench, to speak for blacks as best he can. But to pick this hack is an insult — not only to blacks and the memory of Marshall, but to any thinking American, black or white."

Henry J. Waters
Palm Beach Gardens

Bombing verifies Netanyahu's concern

The truck bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans and wounded more than 100 is a perfect example of why new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's concept of peace with security is necessary. Saudi Arabia unquestionably is friendly toward the United States, but Saudi authorities were unable to prevent the detonation of a truck bomb.

If terrorists can successfully operate in a country as tightly controlled as Saudi Arabia, imagine what they could concoct and accomplish in the friendly environment of an independent Palestinian state adjacent to their target, Israel.

Unless and until the Palestinians can demonstrate that they can control themselves and until they can establish that they are revolted by terror rather than revel in the accomplishments of suicide

bombers and jump with joy when Iraqi missiles fall on Israel, they should not be able to control land bordering Israel.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Inlet must be made more accessible

For some time now, the land adjacent to the north side of the Palm Beach Inlet has been vacant, and I believe it is part of the MacArthur Foundation estate. This seems like an opportune time to let Palm Beach County residents have a parking lot and access to its largest and most navigable inlet. Now, one either has to be dropped off or walk from Riviera Beach public beach, which is quite a distance if you are carrying rod and reels and tackle box.

Jim Culpepper
Lantana

nie
NEWSPAPER IN
EDUCATION
The Palm Beach F
Recognizes



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/1995 FILE PHOTO

Golan Heights residents demonstrate against an Israeli troop withdrawal proposal last year.

Golan must never be handed to Syria

Israel recently asked the United States to ascertain the meaning of Syrian military movements near the Syrian-Lebanese border. It has also been reported that Syria now has large quantities of long-range missiles capable of striking all of Israel.

The Golan Heights serves Israel in a dual capacity. It acts as a buffer in the event of a Syrian attack as in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. It also can be used as a launching area for Israel to counter-attack in the event that Syria attacks Israel through Lebanon.

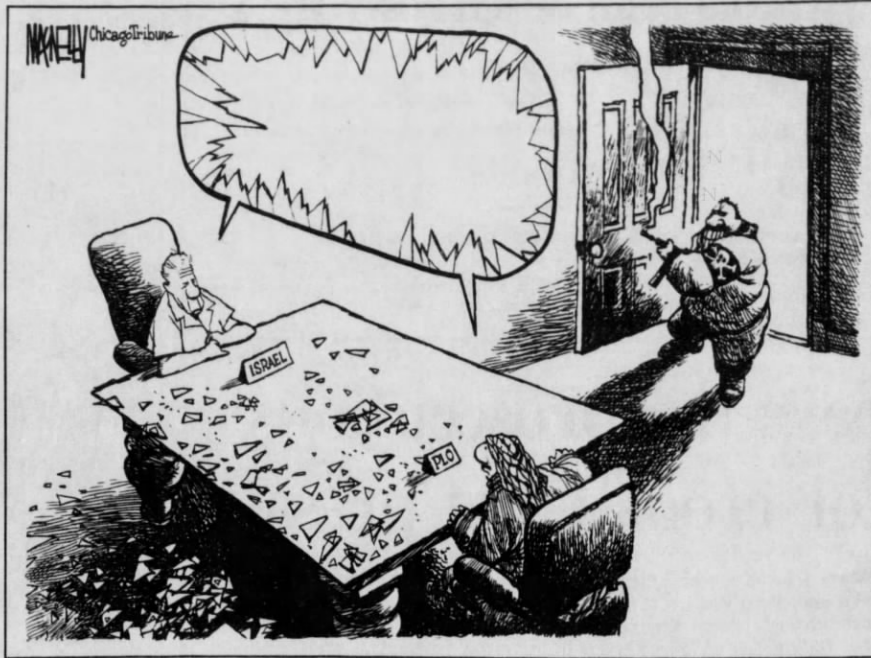
Israel's army is relatively small. The country relies on its reserves in the event of an emergen-

cy. If Israel did not control the Golan, each time the Syrian army appeared to be overly active, Israel would be forced to call up the reserves.

Israel has never attacked Syria. Syria attacked Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973. Syria also used the Golan as a base to fire artillery shells into Israel from 1948 until Israel captured the Golan in 1967.

Unless and until Syria uses its budget for the benefit of its citizens rather than utilizing a huge percentage of annual expenditures for arms and its ever-increasing armed forces, Israel should never consider giving the Golan to Syria.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



Palestinians' acts shattered Israel's trust

Proponents of the policy of "land for peace" pushed by former Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres now bellow that the Netanyahu government's failure to continue the "peace process" caused the recent riots that resulted in so many deaths. These well-meaning people overlook that those very policies caused the riots.

The original intent of the Oslo agreements was slowly to allow the Palestinians to control a small area, determine whether they could be trusted, then continue if the Palestinians were carrying out their part of the agreement. The Palestinians violated the agreement from the date that it was signed. But the Rabin-Peres government paid no attention to these violations and continued to give the Palestinian Authority more

control of the West Bank. The 30,000-plus Palestinian Authority policemen, many of whom were previously imprisoned for rock-throwing, are now entrenched with automatic weapons. In the most recent clashes, they assisted the rock throwers.

The so-called peace process should have been stopped immediately when Israeli leaders heard Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's jihad speeches and when they saw that the Palestinians were violating the agreement with impunity.

Trust is the key to any agreement. The recent riots in Israel show that when the Palestinians are not satisfied with something that Israel does or does not do, their response will be rock-throwing and/or automatic weapons.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Peace" Beyond All Reason

What would it take to convince the "Peace Now" crowd that Arafat, Mubarak, Assad, and friends want to exterminate Israel?

I have posed the following question to several of these followers:

Suppose you were present at a secret meeting convened by Arafat, Assad and Mubarak? Suppose you heard Arafat spell out his plan to obtain as much as possible peacefully, and

then to "intifada" his way slice by slice until Israel was so weak that she would easily be vanquished by a combination of well armed Palestinian, Syrian, Egyptian, and Lebanese armies. Would you want to continue the so called "peace process"?

The usual answer is, "I still think that we should give 'peace' a chance."

I am inclined to think that if, G-d forbid, the Israelis were pushed into the Mediterranean Sea, the "Peace Now" refrain would still be "Let's give peace a chance."

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Florida*

OPINION

Mexican tomato accord helps Florida – for now

The editorial "A rotten tomato deal" has some inaccuracies that warrant correction. If we see higher prices for tomatoes this winter, do not blame the suspension agreement reached recently between the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Mexican growers. When was the last time grocery chains sold tomatoes for 60 cents per pound? That would be a 200 percent markup from the floor price set by the agreement. In fact, most tomatoes are retailed by the chain stores above \$1.69 a pound.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editorial also insinuates that someone might have been involved in price-fixing. First, let me assure you that Florida farmers were not a party to this agreement. Under U.S. anti-dumping laws, the exporter can enter into a suspension agreement with the Department of Commerce. This merely suspends the anti-dumping investigation in exchange for the exporter's assurances that the product will not be sold in the United States for less than a certain price. In this case, Mexican tomatoes cannot be sold in the U.S. for less than 20.68 cents per pound.

The Mexican growers entered into the agreement because they feared having to post about \$68 million in bonds until the case was finally decided early next year. Their fears proved correct when the Commerce Department announced dumping margins of 17.56 percent (average) on Oct. 29.

This agreement brings stability to the market, and it may save a few Florida growers. It does not guarantee anyone a profit, and it should not. The real winner is the American consumer and the Florida farm worker, who will keep his job for now.

**G. Luis Rodriguez, executive director
Florida Farmers & Suppliers Coalition
Lantana**

Israel knows its security needs best

President Clinton and the European Union, especially Prime Minister Jacques Chirac of France, are telling Israel to give the West Bank to the Palestinians, allow them to establish their own state, leave the security zone in Lebanon, give the Golan to Syria, and Israel will live in peace thereafter.

I have not heard one of these "mediators" volunteer that if they are wrong and Israel is vanquished, they would commit to immediately send their troops to remedy the situation that resulted from their fatal advice. Nor have I heard one voice, except for a weak statement from Prime Minister Chirac, say that Syria should leave Lebanon.

The last time a country was advised by the European powers to part with land to satiate the desires of a dictator, Europe, and eventually the

world, was engulfed in World War II.

Israelis alone must decide what Israel should or should not do to protect itself. Israel should politely and bluntly tell all so-called mediators that the nation is capable of making its own security decisions as it has done for 48 years.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Cartoon of jailed 'Friends of Bill' tacky

I take issue with Don Wright's tacky and tasteless "Friends of Bill" cartoon depicting a cell block full of inmates hanging their hands through the bars. Wasn't it during the glorious Reagan years, when of Ronnie was bumbling around in his genial senility, that some in his Cabinet were either under indictment or actually in prison? Why is it that those times have faded from public memory, and we have to expend such effort attempting to tag Mr. Clinton with ethical lapses?

**Michael F. McCarthy Jr.
West Palm Beach**

Eldred's release is an insult to justice

One of the worst insults to justice since Mothers Against Drunk Driving was formed in Palm Beach County in 1983 occurred when Gov. Chiles and five members of the Florida Cabinet reduced Dwight Eldred's eight-year prison term to seven years on probation, of all things.



Eldred

Eldred was entrusted with the care of an 85-year-old patient in a medical van. Eldred drove with a blood-alcohol content three times the legal limit and killed his patient. He pleaded guilty to DUI manslaughter.

Police officers worked hard to apprehend Eldred. Prosecutors worked hard to see justice done. MADD works hard every day all over to stop drunken driving. Legislators work hard at every session to send the message that drunken driving will be punished.

Yet the governor and Cabinet negated all these people's work. MADD is demoralized. And probation! Eldred was already on probation for trying to purchase cocaine on Oct. 8, 1994, the day he killed Jack Dean. Probation means nothing to Eldred.

**Deborah L. Beck, board member
MADD Gold Coast Chapter
Stuart**

Lake Worth Lagoon needs third inlet

As I was reading the editorial "Survival plan needed for near-dead treasure," I asked myself why nobody can see that the real cause of the pollution of the Lake Worth Lagoon is the location of the Palm Beach Canal. It is almost midway between the Palm

Dighton Beach **Syria had role in attack**

The story from Saudi Arabia is that terrorists trained in Lebanon with Iranian backing were responsible for the bombing of the building in which 19 American soldiers were killed and many more wounded.

Not one word about Syrian involvement was mentioned.

Could any objective-minded person not arrive at a conclusion that terrorists training in Syrian-controlled Lebanon could not have perpetrated such an attack without Syria being aware of the training and the planning for the attack?

WILLIAM F. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

It's clear Syria knew of bomb plot

The story from Saudi Arabia is that terrorists trained in Lebanon with Iranian backing were responsible for the bombing of the building in Dhahran in which 23 American soldiers were killed and many more wounded.

Not one word about Syrian involvement was mentioned.

Could any objective person not arrive at a conclusion that terrorist training in Syrian-controlled Lebanon could have perpetrated such an attack without Syria being aware of the training and the planning for the attack?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



Opinion

September 11, 1997

Pay close attention to Hezbollah's words

By: William K. Langfan

The position espoused by those who want Israel to lease the security zone in Lebanon is: "If Israel returns to her borders, Hezbollah will cease attacking Israeli soldiers."

Anyone who has fallen into the trap of accepting that argument should weigh the Hezbollah words "northern-occupied Palestine," which they use as their reference to Northern Israel.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-1997-09-11-9708290219-story.html>



Opinion

November 30, 1997

Why Are We Trying to Help Palestinians?

By: William K. Langfan

The Palestinians in the Gulf War wholeheartedly favored Saddam Hussein and danced with joy every time a Scud missile landed on Israeli soil.

The Palestinians have now shown their true colors once again by burning the United States flag and demonstrating in favor of Saddam Hussein.

The United States continues to insist that Israel must relinquish more territory to the Palestinians.

Can anyone arrive at any logical reason why the U.S. should want to place its only true ally in the Middle East in a potentially fatally weakened position in order to create an entity that favors our adversary?

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-1997-11-30-9711280195-story.html>

Splintering of coalition not Israel's fault

There have been subtle and not-so-subtle suggestions floating around that the Persian Gulf War coalition against Iraq has collapsed because of Israel's failure to continue the Oslo peace process. An objective analysis of the facts would demonstrate that this is without foundation.

Egypt and Syria joined the coalition because one Arab country was conquered by another. Arab relations with Israel were not an issue. Egypt and Syria now refuse to cooperate with the United States because they no longer feel that they or other Arab countries are threatened by Iraq.

If there were no Israel, could anyone reasonably conclude that Egypt and Syria would now join the U.S. in a coalition against Iraq?

The theory that the coalition no longer exists because of Israel's intransigence is a ploy to try to force Israel to continue a process that has been violated by the Palestinians since its inception.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

majority of preschools.

The parents and FAU school officials who caused this mess should be ashamed. Why couldn't they have butted out and left this successful institution as it was? FAU will be truly sorry to have lost the four great educators it had.

**Janice Williams
Delray Beach**

Editor's note: FAU hired Rangasamy Ramasamy, a Slattery parent who also teaches in FAU's College of Education, on May 27 to serve as interim director of the school until a permanent director could be found.

Keep Lebanon out of Israel-Syria treaty

The international community, including the United States and left-leaning Israelis, is trying to promote a peace agreement between Israel and Syria with these provisions: Israel would leave the Golan and its "security zone" in Lebanon; Syria would sign a peace treaty with Israel and prevent the Hezbollah from attacking Israel from Lebanon.

Syria controls all of Lebanon except for the tiny zone that Israel uses to protect itself from attacks on northern Israel from Lebanon. It shatters credulity to ask Israel to rely on an agreement with Syria to prevent attacks by the Hezbollah, who have been acting as that country's proxy for many years in attacks from Lebanon against Israel.

Would it not be more logical for peace advo-

cates to call for Syria to relinquish its control of Lebanon, and if Israel agreed to leave the security zone in exchange for a guarantee from Lebanon that it would prevent attacks from Lebanon?

Syria and Israel should negotiate for a peace treaty without any reference to Lebanon.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Write us

The Palm Beach Post welcomes letters from readers. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and clarity. Even e-mail and faxed letters *must* include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. You may receive a phone call for verification. 'Open letters' or third-party letters will not be published. Our addresses:

Letters to the Editor

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Internet: letters@pbpost.com

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THE PALM BEACH POST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1999

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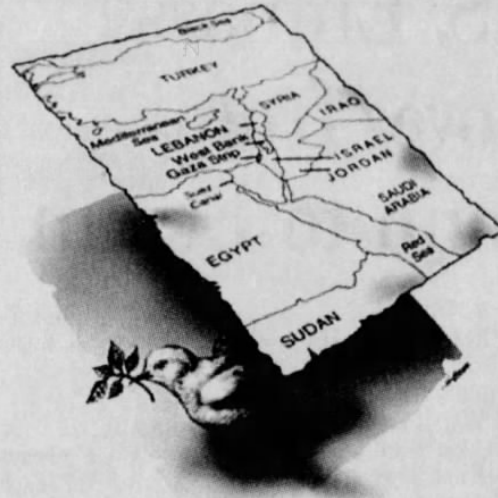
Make Syria pay for rocket attacks on northern Israel

Israel should not have sent its airplanes against Lebanon recently after Hezbollah attacked northern Israel with rockets.

Instead, Israeli leaders should have sent a stern warning to Syria stating that if there were one more Hezbollah attack, Damascus would feel the full brunt of Israel's air power. This type of notification should have been conveyed to Syria many years ago.

There is no doubt that Syria controls Lebanon. Unquestionably, the Hezbollah would not be able to operate without Syria's complete cooperation and assistance. There is also no doubt that the Hezbollah is acting as Syria's proxy.

Lebanon is the territory from which the Hezbollah has been launching its attacks on northern Israel. The Lebanese people do not



want to be a Syrian satellite; they are innocent pawns of Syria.

Thus, Israel's response should not have been against the territory from which the aggression came.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach



Opinion

August 8, 1999

Syria Speaks Peace But Supports Terrorism

By: William K. Langfan

Prime Minister Barak has stated that he sees great importance in reaching a peace agreement with Syria. It has also been reported that Prime Minister Barak intends to have Israel depart from her security zone in Lebanon in exchange for a Syrian guarantee that she would prevent the Hezbollah from attacking northern Israel. Syria's guarantee would be dovetailed with Israel returning the Golan to Syria with a resultant peace treaty between Syria and Israel.

When all of the above machinations have been completed, Syria would be looking down at northern Israel from the Golan from which she bombed Israel from 1948 until 1967. Israel would have a lovely piece of paper stating that Syria and Israel are at peace

Syria has failed to adhere to the Taif Accords of 1989 in which she promised to leave Lebanon in two years. Syria has given aid to Hezbollah for years in its attacks against Israel. Syria has used its Lebanon base as the training ground for the most notorious terrorist organizations in the world. Syria is classified as a terrorist state.

Can anyone reasonably state that Israel should or could trust Syria? Has one word of amicability toward Israel emanated from Syria other than a few recent words from Assad in which he complimented Barak? Prime Minister Barak

must move slowly and cautiously before he enters into any agreement in which he cedes the Golan to Syria for a "peace treaty."

It is serenely comfortable to say that Israel and Syria should forget the past and commence negotiations for a real peace. Everyone should remember Hitler's words of "peace" in his speech at the Berlin sportspalast on Oct. 5, 1938 (a few days after the Munich Peace Pact of Sept. 29-30, 1938): "By Oct. 10, we shall have occupied all areas which belong to us. Thus, ... all of us ... will then in the year for the first time really rejoice at the Christmas festival. It should for us all be a true festival of peace."

Hitler and his propaganda minister used the word peace many times until they attacked Poland. Israel should experience a few years of Syrian progress and performance before she cedes one inch of the strategic Golan.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-1999-08-08-9908061234-story.html>

Hold Palestinians to Wye agreement

If Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak thinks the Palestinians are going to dovetail the Wye River divestitures with the final status talks, he is in for a rude awakening. The Palestinians want as much land as possible before they engage in "final" talks.



Mr. Barak

The Palestinians know that when they bring up the return of refugees and Jerusalem, the talks will end in a stalemate, there being no possibility of a compromise in these areas.

The only viable procedure for Mr. Barak to follow in order to preclude giving more land to the Palestinians is to insist that they fully comply with their obligations, clearly stated in Oslo and Wye River. The Palestinians' failure to meet their contractual promises should be carefully listed, violation by violation.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

Book disqualifies Buchanan from race



Mr. Buchanan

Pat Buchanan is entitled to express his opinion in his new book *A Republic, Not an Empire*. But his opinions and conjectures about Adolf Hitler, appeasement and World War II should preclude him from being a serious contender for the presidency of the United States.

Anyone who thinks that if France and England had not entered into the war when Hitler invaded Poland, Hitler would have conquered Russia and would have allowed Western Europe to remain serenely peaceful has a fatal flaw in his reasoning.

**William K. Langfan
Palm Beach**

Letters To The Editor

What Is Peace?

Almost all of the articles that have been written about the Israeli-Syrian meetings, refer to them as peace talks. Will these meetings lead to real peace or will they merely result in the end of a state of war?

Thus far, the two treaties with Egypt and Jordan have not eventuated into what one could reasonably refer to as real peace.

Does real peace mean that three Jordanian journalists were temporarily expelled from the Jordanian journalistic society for

meeting with their Israeli counterparts? (They were readmitted to the society after they profusely apologized for the dastardly violation of Jordanian journalistic rules about dealing with "peace partner" Israel.)

Peace means not writing vitriolic anti-Israel and anti-Jewish articles on a continuous basis in the controlled Egyptian and Palestinian Press.

Peace means that Egypt should not have held major military exercises simulat-

ing an attack across the Suez Canal.

Peace means that Palestinians should not shout "Sadam-Sadam shoot your missiles at Tel Aviv." Peace means that textbooks should not contain anti-Israel and anti-Jewish references.

Peace means that small countries can live peacefully in harmony with their neighbors as the citizens of Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Monaco live with their powerful bordering countries.

Peace means that coun-

tries engage in normal interchange of trade; where journalists, scientists, doctors, and anyone can deal openly with counterparts.

If we assume that the effect of the treaty with Syria will result in a cold peace, a treaty similar to the treaties which Israel has signed with Egypt and Jordan; and if we assume that the agreement with the Palestinians will proceed along the lines of the Palestinian demands, what

would Israel have accomplished with all of these agreements?

Israel will be loaded with "peace" accords. She will be surrounded by countries who do not want her there. Israel will have diminished her security to a point where her only deterrent will be her alleged possession of atomic bombs. Would Israel be really at peace?

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Florida*

Syria's Assad isn't really interested in peace

When leaders of countries enter into peace agreements, do they intend to adhere to the terms of the agreements? Should a leader arrive at a simple conclusion that if the other side wants to sign a peace agreement, they must really want peace?

Suppose Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said to Syrian President Hafez Assad: "Syria and Israel should sign a peace treaty that would include the transfer of the Golan after X period of time. X would be decided upon after our countries have established a relationship in which we created open borders and complete interchange in all fields of endeavor as the European countries deal with each other."

There is no possibility that Assad would accept such a proposal. Assad has a simple peace agreement in his mind: Agree to give the Golan to Syria, and I will sign a peace accord for Syria.

How can any rational thinking prime minister of Israel arrive at a conclusion that after Syria received the Golan, Assad would adhere to an agreement with Israel?

Why would Assad keep an agreement with Israel when he has violated virtually every agreement that he has entered into with Moslem leaders? Ask the Turks, the Lebanese and the Jordanians.

Can anyone present one scintilla of evidence to indicate that Assad intends peace with Israel other than his use of the word peace?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH

Letters To The Editor

Continued From Page 5

to be on the lookout for suicidal teens and refer them right away for help before someone loses his or her life, tragically, by completing a suicide or causing other self damage.

We need to have from adolescent psychiatric inpatients unit, residential treatment centers, rehabilitation programs for substance abuse, and therapeutic day treatment programs. When our children go into programs that are sponsored by the secular world, you can say "Good-bye to *Yiddishkeit* and Hello to the *shmutz* of the world."

I recently spoke to a well-known child psychiatrist who felt that at this point in time, our system of managed health care cannot provide us with these desperately needed services. I also feel that from adolescent girls need yeshiva programs when they are troubled. More girls than boys have emotional problems as adolescents, since this is the developmental stage when depression can manifest itself. Yet, all I read about are new programs for difficult adolescent males. These girls, hopefully, will be our Jewish mothers to the next generation.

It is nice to be able to have a frum therapist. In real life, one cannot always have a frum therapist or even a Jewish therapist. There are very few child psychiatrists let alone frum child psychiatrists in the country. Oftentimes, a teen might need medication in addition to therapy. Parents need to know that they can sign the appropriate releases so that their rabbi can be of assistance to the therapist, family and teenager when issues of *halacha* and/or culture present in the treatment.

With the help of Hashem, we should show

Regarding an article on Page 105 by Shmuel Kunda about Gideon Busch, it stated that the cops involved, "are still walking the streets of Boro Park and carrying the same revolvers." It should be noted that whenever there are shooting incidents of this nature, the cops who are involved are transferred out of the precinct where the shooting has taken place. Also, New York cops as well as the majority of the police departments in this county, no longer carry revolvers. They all use automatic pistols.

Nachum Goldman
Columbus, Ohio

A Prime Minister Who Lies

Prime Minister Barak is reported to have said that President Assad is a strong leader who is serious and trustworthy and honors his word.

If Barak had uttered these words with his hand on a Bible, the Bible would have jumped to the ceiling.

Has Barak forgotten what Assad did to his own people at Hama? Has Barak chosen to forget that Assad violated agreements with Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon? Has Barak forgotten that on many occasions Assad denied that his troops were transporting arms and ammunition to Hizbullah?

If Barak issued this untrue statement in order to restart the Golan talks, the Knesset should have a "no confidence vote" and start the process for a new election.

A prime minister who lies to his people does not deserve to be the leader of his country.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL

disobeying the laws of the State of Israel or the orders of the authorized authorities." You will recall that Mr. Haetzni spoke only of non-violent disobedience. Your attempt to preclude Haetzni's freedom of speech in areas that "may be considered a call for disobeying the laws of the State," represent an outrageous example of governmental prior restraint on the right of free speech guaranteed by America's first Amendment and the law of Israel, a nation which purports to be the only democracy in the Middle East.

The essence of prior restraints are that they give public officials the power to deny use of a forum in advance of actual expression. See *Southeastern Promotions Ltd. v. Conrad* 420 U.S. 546, 553, 43 L. Ed. 2d 448, 95 S. Ct. 1239 (1975). Prior restraints on speech, however, "are the most serious and the least intolerable infringement on First Amendment rights." See *Nebraska Press Ass'n v. Stuart*, 427, U.S. 539, 559, 49 L. Ed. 2d 683 Ct. 2791 (1976).

Moreover, the loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury. *Elrod v. Burns*, 427, U.S. 347, 49 L. Ed. 2d 547, 96 S. Ct. 2673 (1976) (plural opinion); *Bery v. City of New York* 97 F. 3d 689, 963 (2d Cir. 1996), cert. Denied 520 U.S. 1251 138 L. Ed. 174, 117 S.Ct. 2408 (1997).

Has the State of Israel reverted to the repressive ways of earlier administrations? Will demonstrators (men, women and children) again be beaten in the streets by "specially trained" police units? Will the Orwellian "thought police," directed by the office of the Attorney General, censure, in advance all attempts at **non-violent civil disobedience** under the guise of maintaining the "public order"? Bolshevism, it appears.

Make Syria pay for Hezbollah attacks

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's office issued a statement that Israel would not be able to continue the peace efforts if Syria did not rein in the Hezbollah. This announcement was made after three Israeli soldiers were killed Jan. 31 in the security zone in Lebanon.

Mr. Barak is fooling himself if he thinks that his timorously feeble threat would force President Hafez Assad to stop his proxies unless and until he receives an absolute commitment from Mr. Barak that Israel will leave the whole Golan area.

A principal is responsible for the acts of his agents under international law. The same simple, logical concept should apply in dealing with Syria. There is no reasonable doubt that the Hezbollah are acting as agents of Syria. Thus, Syria should be told that if there is one more Hezbollah attack, Damascus will feel the brunt of Israel's might.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

'Peace Now' faction ignores Mideast reality

What is the difference between "Peace Now" thinkers and the advocates of no negotiation with the Palestinian and the Syrian rulers until there is an atmosphere of peace? The "Peace Now" camp bases its conclusion on faith and what they deem to be fair and reasonable. We base our judgments on facts, deeds and utterances in Arabic by the leaders and their hierarchy.

Can anyone justify the creation of a Palestinian map that encompasses all of pre-1967 Israel? Can anyone defend the creation of a monument in the shape of that map in honor of the "engineer" who created the bombs that were used by suicide bombers to kill and maim many Israelis? Can anyone explain why there is a constant stream of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish articles in the Palestinian, Egyptian and Syrian presses, radio and television? There has never been

one article in the Arabic press discussing real peace with Israel. Can anyone present one Arafat speech in Arabic in which he indicated that the Palestinians and Israelis should live in peace with each other? There are many tapes of Arafat speeches which are full of hate toward Israel. Can anyone justify the use of textbooks in the Palestinian and Syrian schools that contain anti-Israel and anti-Jewish statements? Can anyone defend the fact that any Palestinian who sells a parcel of land to a Jew will be assassinated?

Would the United States have left its occupation and control of Japan or Germany if the Japanese or Germans were engaged in the type of conduct described above? Faith in peace must be based upon some semblance of fact. I implore "Peace Now" followers: Please present something reasonably tangible to indicate Arab sincerity for peace other than blind hope.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH

Arafat challenge

I present a simple challenge to the "Peace Now" Group. Please present to this newspaper, one Yasser Arafat sentence in print or in a speech, translated into English, in which he stated to an Arab audience that the Palestinians should live in peace with their Israeli neighbors.

WILLIAM LANGFAN

PALM BEACH

Wilmington

Palestinian reactions imperil chance of peace

The events of the past few days have proved conclusively that there is no semblance of a peaceful atmosphere in the West Bank. Allegedly, Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount precipitated a Palestinian killing a joint patrol Israeli soldier colleague, several roadside bombings and massive mob stone-throwing. If a visit to the Temple Mount by an elected member of the Knesset and the leader of the second largest political party in Israel can cause such a catastrophic response, what can we expect in the future?

Unless and until the Palestinian leadership convinces the Palestinians that they must act in a civilized manner toward their Israeli neighbors, there never will be a possibility of peace.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Israel's hopes of peace shattered by reality

Peace with Israel's neighbors has been a dream of Israelis ever since the creation of Israel. Unfortunately, many Israelis wrongfully thought that the 1993 Oslo agreement was to be a fulfillment of that desire. Their dream has now been shattered by reality.

If anyone had objectively observed the deeds and the Arabic verbiage of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his cohorts since Oslo, they would have realized that the reality of the peace with Mr. Arafat had been predicated upon hope alone, with no facts to sustain that expectation.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Sharon must find out if peace talks are charade

Before Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon attempts to resurrect the alleged "peace process," he should ask Yasser

Arafat one simple question: "Would you please define what you mean by peace with Israel? After you have defined peace with Israel in English,



Mr. Sharon

would you please broadcast your definition to the Palestinians in Arabic?"

Thus far, nobody has been able to find, after more than seven years of the Oslo process, one sentence in which Mr. Arafat has stated the word *peace* with Israel in Arabic to the Palestinians.

It would also be interesting to ask the leaders of Hamas, the Party of God, and some of the other groups of Palestinians for their definitions of peace with Israel. If, as any reasonably objective analysis of past Palestinian words and deeds would indicate, the definitions will be tantamount to "peace with Israel means no Israel," why should Israel engage in a charade?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

No response against terrorism is too severe

In response to the March 28 story about Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ("Bombings increase pressure on Sharon"): Who is to determine what a "measured" response to a bombing or a shooting should be? We continually hear opinions from various sources that "collective" punishment by sealing roads is too severe. Using tanks and helicopters is an overreaction.

It is not unreasonable to arrive at a conclusion that the use of terror is one of the weapons that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and/or terrorist groups are using to break the morale of the Israeli public. Apologists can say that the terrorists are the destroyers of attempts at peace; however, Mr. Arafat either has the power to control the terrorists or he is incapable of containing them. In either case, Israel has the absolute right to protect its citizens by using any means at its disposal.

Any response is not too severe if it would enable an Israeli to drive his car or sit at a cafe or walk in the street without worrying about whether he or she will return home safely.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Israel has the right to protect its citizens

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break the moral of the Israeli public. Apologists can say that the terrorists are the destroyers of attempts at peace; however, Yasser Arafat either has the power to control the terrorists or he is incapable of containing them. In either case, Israel has the exclusive absolute right to protect its citizens by using any means at its disposal.

Any response is not too severe if it would enable an Israeli to drive his car or sit at a cafe or walk in the street without worrying about whether or not he will return home safely.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

PALM BEACH

Action on terrorism not likely from Palestinians

In response to the May 23 editorial "Freeze on settlements; action on terrorism": Let us assume that Israel relinquished control of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. How would *The Post* suggest that Israel respond if there were attacks from the Palestinian state by terrorists, snipers or mortar emplacements?

This is a reasonable probability, predicated upon: the Palestinian map, which encompasses all of Israel; the fact that the Palestinians never have made a bona fide nullification or renunciation of the covenants calling for destruction of Israel; every Arabic word from the mouths of the Palestinian leadership; and the utterances of Hamas and similar groups.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Arab propaganda

Reuters quoted Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah in Germany on June 9 as follows: "The Israeli war machine is directed daily on unarmed people who throw stones at the very most..."

This is a typical example of the outright lies promulgated continuously by the leaders of Arab countries.

The daily stories appearing in your newspaper and on TV about Palestinian suicide bombings, sniping, ambushes and firing of mortars against Israelis are evidently Israeli propaganda to the acting head of Saudi Arabia.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH

newspapers concerning the bombings; however, the Bush administration and other nations criticized the Israeli action.

I guess the answer is that innocent lives aren't as important as politics. What a world we live in!

BARRY BESNER
BOCARATON

Israeli 'occupation' of own land

The Palestinians claim that the Israeli occupation is the cause of the constant fighting. Are they referring to Israel's "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza, or are they alluding to Israel's occupation of Israel?

Jordan controlled the West Bank from 1948 until 1967. Egypt was in possession of Gaza for many years until 1967. The Palestine Liberation Organization was created in 1964 with the specific intention of destroying

Israel. Israel gained control of Gaza and the West Bank in the 1967 war, three years after the creation of the PLO.

If we combine the facts of 1) the PLO's creation, aimed at destroying Israel, three years before Israel was in possession of the West Bank and Gaza, 2) Arafat's oft-repeated slice-by-slice approach to the destruction of Israel, and 3) the last interview of the Israeli left's most-trusted Palestinian, Faisal Al Hussein, in which he referred to Oslo as a "phased goal" to ambush Israel, it is not difficult to conclude that "occupation" to the Palestinians means Israel's occupation of Israel.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH

Religious respect often narrow

I find it interesting that a paper that depicts people praying in just

Saudi prince called on wrong person

The Wall Street Journal reported in its Oct. 29 edition that Crown Prince Abdullah, acting head of Saudi Arabia, called President Bush demanding that the United States rein in Israel to prevent further fighting with Palestinians.

Prince Abdullah is noted for his objectivity, as attested by a Reuters dispatch in which he was quoted on June 9, 2001, "The Israeli war machine is directed daily on unarmed people who throw stones at the very most."

If the prince really wants to stop the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, he called the wrong person. Israel counter-attacks after

Palestinian attacks. Thus, the prince should call Yasser Arafat and tell him to rein in Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and others.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH

Arabs playing both sides of conflict

Terrorism remains a way of life in Israel and one cannot see any relief so long as extremists work to annihilate the Jewish state. Peace can only prosper if an agreement includes full recognition and security for the Israeli people. The critics demand the United States dissociate itself from Israel in order to establish peace and equality for the Palestinians.

Has there ever been peace, harmony and

Arafat's proven he can't be a partner for peace

In response to last Monday's editorial "Arafat's position critical after bloody bombings": The argument that the latest bombings are aimed at derailing retired Gen. Anthony Zinni's mission has no substantial logic in the reality of the Middle East.

On the one hand, Yasser Arafat is either directly or indirectly (by not arresting those who are) responsible for the bombings; or, alternatively, Mr. Arafat is unable to effectively control the groups perpetrating these wanton bombings. This terrorism emanates from inside the land nominally controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

If Mr. Arafat is responsible for these and many other similar atrocities, there is no rational reason to negotiate with him. In the alternative, if Mr. Arafat cannot deter terror groups acting inside his areas from committing such horrific terrorist acts, any agreement reached with Mr. Arafat would give him more land and only serve to increase the torrent of terror by the very same uncontrollable, indigenous Palestinian terror groups.

Unless and until Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority can demonstrate that they can dismantle all of the terror organizations operating in land under their jurisdiction, any negotiations other than for a mere cease-fire would be futile.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Dr. Kevorkian needs

It's hard to get excited about Saudi peace offer

I don't want to malign the good news emanating from Saudi Arabia ("Saudi peace plan stirs Mideast hope," Feb. 26), and I don't want to compare Prince Abdullah to Hitler; but when the Munich pact was signed in 1938, Hitler stated that there would be peace for decades. If Israelis could be assured that they could live in peace as citizens of other tiny countries such as Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland and others do, all but Israeli extremists would be happy to return to pre-1967 borders.

If we were able to put Prince Abdullah and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat under hypnosis and ascertain their sincerity, there would be a rapid resolution of the issue.

Until there is some extraordinary evidence of a change of atmosphere, not just empty words, the leaders of Israel would be ill-advised to gamble with the lives of its citizens.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

After port's huge snafu, who will want to use it?

On Dec. 22, *The Post* ran an article that was full of good news ("Part of Palm Beach to host its biggest ship ever today"). Well-laid plans to handle the event were taken care of, even extra security would be in place. While this was short notice, to quote Jarra Gould, marketing director for the port, "This cruise terminal is built to handle 800 passengers easily." Port officials even had a plaque made to welcome the captain and the vessel.

Then reality began to sink in (pardon the pun). Buses couldn't get near the passengers because a turn was too tight. Has anyone heard of a tape measure? Not only that, but the people who designed this apparent boondoggle forgot that the buses might have to park. And no one thought that perhaps some passengers might want to sit? Can we say "call a rental place"? Hungry? Thirsty? Why would people want to eat or drink? Can anyone there say "Oops. Lost revenue"? How difficult would it have been to install some machines to serve the passengers? Was no one thinking? A port is nothing if it is not part of a service industry. It appears that it is an industry without service if these problems were not considered in the original design.

Ms. Gould may be "marketing" to the cruise-ship industry, but if passengers want no part of the port, neither will cruise lines. Just another example of politicians trying to run a business with no practical experience.

MARK GOLDEN
Boynton Beach

'Happy Holidays' meant only to be inclusive

Kathleen Parker's column Dec. 25 comments that "happy holidays" is a greeting that's insincere, insipid and devoid of spirit ("Christmas puts the hum in humbug"). Does she greet people who observe the high holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur? "Happy Holidays" means greetings for both Christmas and New Year's. I would like more people to recognize that these Jewish holidays are important to those who observe them; a nice greeting would be welcomed.

SILVIE R. GOLD
West Palm Beach

Alter facts on the ground before Palestinian state

The leaders of European countries and the United States have decided that there should be a Palestinian state within three years ("Powell, EU disagree on Mideast 'road map,'" Dec. 19). This is a replica of the Oslo fiasco.

Are they dictating that this state should be created regardless of the facts that the terrorist organizations still would be viable — that suicide bombers and snipers still would be operating, that bomb and munitions factories still would be functioning; that the Palestinians still would dance in the streets as the word spread of a successful killing of Israelis; and that the daily vitriol would still be spewed on TV, radio or the press?

The major powers should come forth with an agenda stating that a Palestinian state will

be established as, if and when the above-mentioned uncivilized conditions are eradicated and the Palestinians are pacified as the Germans and the Japanese were before we returned control to them after World War II.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Nurses not to blame if staffing is inadequate

In response to the Dec. 20 letter "Shortage of nurses puts a crimp on discipline": Is the writer a nurse, for how long and in what phase of nursing was she to make these judgments on the profession?

Nurses are trained under a high standard of requirements set by the Board of Nursing in Tallahassee. These standards are reviewed regularly to continue to keep them high. Nursing uses discipline to meet these high standards, but there is conflict when hospital standards are not as high in the standard of patient care. The greatest frustration of well-trained nurses is that they can not humanly accomplish all the things they learned in caring for their patients in the scant time the administration grants, due to lack of staff and poor working conditions.

There is great discipline and accountability in order to maintain one's nursing license. The nurses also have to receive 24 hours of continuing education every two years, plus other required lectures.

Negligence is not intentional but found only if there is not adequate staff or proper support by the administration. A nurse cannot be in a hundred places at once. A nurse is helpless if the administration does not rectify dangerous staffing situations. Patients who need constant attention need a private-duty nurse, because there is no way hospital staffing permits constant care.

ROSALIE MORRISSEY, RN
Atlantis

Better marriage initiative is to make it tougher

While some may "applaud" Gov. Bush's Family Initiative, some of their reasons are way off the mark ("Solid reasons behind Bush's family initiative," Dec. 27 letter). The writer's statement that divorce is always bad is wrong. He also says it's too easy to obtain. Wrong again. The writer has to be so uninformed in this area. And one word to his assertion that divorce can be avoided: Duh. I suggest making it more difficult to get married and easier to divorce. Staying in a really bad marriage is destructive to children of the marriage.

EDWARD W. HOTHAN
Jupiter

Would IRS recognize 'aggressive accounting'?

Tuesday's Business section carried the article "Tyco's probers see flaws — no evil," which stated that Tyco International used "aggressive accounting" but committed "no systemic or significant fraud."

Perhaps I should use "aggressive accounting" on my income-tax return and see whether the IRS comes after me for fraud.

RON GAMBOLATI
West Palm Beach



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Interview with William Langfan [2/12/2003]

Jacqueline Wilner:

Today is February 12, 2003. I am in Palm Beach, Florida, the state of Florida. Bill, please tell me your name and address, when you were born.

William Langfan:

William K. Langfan, 2100 South Ocean Boulevard, Palm Beach, Florida, 33480. I was born on March 4, 1922. Unfortunately, March 4th has now become just my regular birthday. It used to be inauguration day and every four years I used to celebrate my birthday and the inauguration of the President. Unfortunately or fortunately, they changed it to January 20th.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you have your day all to yourself.

William Langfan:

That's right.

Jacqueline Wilner:

My name is Jackie Wilner and I am conducting this interview as part of the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress of the United States. The local partners for this project is Temple Emanuel of Palm Beach, Florida and the Women's League of the temple. Bill Langfan and I, Jackie Wilner, are at this interview. Sir, please tell us in what branch of the service you served.

William Langfan:

I served in the antiaircraft corps, which initially was known as the coastal artillery. I think at some point they became antiaircraft.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What was your rank and where was your tour of duty?

William Langfan:

My rank at the end was PFC. My tour of duty started in Camp Upton, New York, where I went to Fort Eustis, Virginia for basic training and then immediately was on my way overseas. First stop was at Fort Meade, Maryland and then Camp Dix, New Jersey and then Liverpool, Great Britain.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You were in the European theater.

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Tell me about your family at the time you entered the service. Where did you live? Where did you go to school? How did your father earn a living?

William Langfan:

I was in my senior year at University of South Carolina and I enlisted in my junior year in what was known as the Enlisted Reserve Corps, which was to permit students at college to graduate, if

possible, and then enter the army immediately. I was called up in the latter part of my final semester and I did receive enough points to be graduated, although I never was there for the graduation. I was in the army. My family consisted of a brother, who was the oldest, and three sisters. I was the baby of five. My father was a paint contractor. We lived in Washington Heights. My father and mother --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Washington Heights where?

William Langfan:

Washington Heights Manhattan, New York City. My father and mother arrived in the United States in 1906. My father had been in the Russian army in the Russo-Japanese War and was in Korea for most of the combat activity. And he was home on leave and decided that me and my mother had enough of Europe and they left for the United States.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Smart move.

William Langfan:

It sure was.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Was there Jewish religion in your family?

William Langfan:

Oh, yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did they practice?

William Langfan:

Yes, my family was shomer Shabbos. My sisters didn't exactly adhere to it, nor did my brother, nor did I. But my father and mother -- as a matter of fact, my father would not press the elevator on Shabbos. He would wait for somebody to come and press the elevator button. We lived on the fifth floor, and he just didn't want to walk all the way up.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you pick the branch of service --

William Langfan:

No.

Jacqueline Wilner:

-- that you went into?

William Langfan:

No. No, I did not.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You had no choice.

William Langfan:

I went right in and went overseas virtually right after basic training.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Do you recall your first days in service?

William Langfan:

My first --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Days in service.

William Langfan:

Are you talking about basic training or before I got out of basic training?

Jacqueline Wilner:

Tell me about basic training or what was the time period that you got into basic training?

William Langfan:

I want to go back to college for a couple of minutes. I went into business while I was in my junior year by representing manufacturers of military supplies. And I sold various sundry military supplies from caps, badges, to belts, to buckles, pillow top cases, sayings for mothers and sweethearts.

Jacqueline Wilner:

This is when you were still in college?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you get into that?

William Langfan:

I worked on Saturdays in my sophomore year selling various military items at a retail store and suddenly I thought of the idea of going to the Yellow Pages and the telephone directory in Manhattan and pick up manufacturers of the products that I had been selling retail. It was like a blessing to the manufacturers and to me.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You were an entrepreneur when you were very young.

William Langfan:

Yes, I was. So I had a good handle on military -- all kinds of military supplies. As a matter of fact, my first day -- first night of retreat there was a real -- this is my daughter. (Interview interrupted by a visitor.)

William Langfan:

So at this retreat --

Jacqueline Wilner:

This was a college retreat?

William Langfan:

No. This was a retreat in the army. At night -- in the morning we had reveille --

Jacqueline Wilner:

This is when you first went into the service.

William Langfan:

Yes, this is the first day at basic training.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Okay.

William Langfan:

I wanted to show off that I knew various items. So I had my own overseas cap, which was completely different than the GI cap. I had a Windsor knot. I had civilian shoes on. And I had an eagle buckle, all violative of regulations. I happened to be in the front row. The corporal took one look at me and he said who the F do you think you are? And he started with my shoes. And he said city shoes for retreat? Then he went up to my buckle and said an eagle buckle, who the hell told you you could wear the eagle buckle for retreat? I also had a key chain and he grabbed that. Then he looked at my Windsor knot and I thought he was going to burst a bloodstream or something. Then he looked at my cap and he said I don't want to ever see you wearing that cap again. That was the first retreat and it was quite amusing. We were all laughing later.

Jacqueline Wilner:

No punishment for that.

William Langfan:

No.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What happened --

William Langfan:

I went through basic training. It was rather simple basic training. Frankly, I thought that it was not as intensive as training should have been, but that's what it was. There was another incident, there were others, but this one stands out. Almost all of us won awards for either sharpshooting or expert shooting or just plain marksmen. We had slips indicating how we qualified. And we were waiting for badges and waiting for badges, but they didn't come. So I suggested that -- somebody asked me to get badges because that was one of the items that I was selling. And I said, sure, I will be very happy to do that. They said, you know, we also would like to have good-looking overseas caps. I said, sure, I would be very happy to get those for you. So I ordered a whole slew of overseas caps and medals of various kinds. And when they arrived it was like a stampede of various fellows in our own battery to come and pick up their medals. And I made certain to look at each slip to make sure that they qualified before I would let them buy one of the medals. And, incidentally, the prices that I was charging were probably less than -- way less than retail and maybe less than wholesale, because I was just hardly taking any kind of markup. I was doing this to be a good GI.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Good soldier.

William Langfan:

So word got out in other parts of the camp that I was selling these medals. And they were coming from all over the camp. And the result was it was a little rainy and they tracked up the floor, and the sergeant calls me aside and said, Langfan, that floor is your responsibility. But I was lucky I was able to hire a couple of fellows and they cleaned it up for me and I paid them for it. Then I received the call telling me that I have to go to the office. The CO said I understand that you have been selling badges. I said, well, sir, we were eagerly awaiting badges. The fellows were going home for weekends and they were going home with bare chests and wanted to show off their medals. And a couple of fellows knew I had been in this business before I got into the army and said, Bill, why don't you pick some of those up. I said I never allowed anybody to buy a medal without showing me his slip saying that he qualified. So after a couple of minutes he said, well, you go back and just make sure you see all the slips before you sell them. And that was that. But that was a very funny experience.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you had basic training. This was where?

William Langfan:

In Fort Meade -- excuse me, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Where did you go from there?

William Langfan:

From there, from there I went to Fort Meade, Maryland, which was in the nature of the jump-off point to go overseas.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How long were you there?

William Langfan:

I was there for a very short period of time. At that point, because I saw a sergeant nearby and I started talking to one of the fellows to show off that I knew the size of the various shells and the weights of the shells. And I made sure that the sergeant heard this. And the next thing you know, I became what was known as a saltwater corporal. It seems that when troops travel there have to be a certain amount of noncommissioned officers. So when men are shipped overseas from basic training, there, there -- there must be a certain amount of noncommissioned officers and these are known as saltwater corporals, saltwater sergeants.

Jacqueline Wilner:

That's interesting. I never heard that term before. Saltwater.

William Langfan:

Then from Camp Meade we went to Fort Dix and then shoved off overseas. Something amusing --

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you go overseas?

William Langfan:

Pardon me?

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you go overseas?

William Langfan:

Transport, ordinary transport.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Ship.

William Langfan:

Yes. But I want to return for a quick moment to Fort Meade, because there was a very amusing incident there. I was on the softball team, but it seems that we landed in an area where there was a tremendous amount of ragweed. I had hayfever. It was bothering me to such an extent that my eyes were puffed and they were tearing and I just was not able to play. So they said go and you can coach. So I was coaching on the third base line. We were losing three to nothing. It was the seventh inning and we weren't even close to scoring. We were up and just -- I don't know what brought it out, but I started clapping my hands and saying all carrot tops back to the minors. The pitcher for the opposing team was redheaded. I kept on saying at that point all carrot tops back to the minors. Well, that got him so angry that he walked off the pitching mound and came over and wanted to fight. Of course they wouldn't let us fight. But he got so upset that my team wound up getting four runs and we beat them four-three and at the end of the game all of the team members came over to congratulate me even though I didn't play one inning in the game.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Great story. Then you went overseas.

William Langfan:

Then we went overseas. On the ship --

Jacqueline Wilner:

How long of a transport was it; do you have any idea?

William Langfan:

It was in the nature of a Liberty Ship. All that I did was shoot craps the whole way over.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You earned money selling and this is another --

William Langfan:

It enabled me to probably not get seasick. A lot of the fellows were seasick. And a lot of the fellows were going to the bathroom rather frequently. Fortunately, I think that the fact psychologically that I was so busy playing craps that nothing happened.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Sounds like you might have been successful at it.

William Langfan:

Well I didn't get hurt. And we landed at Liverpool.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What did you do there?

William Langfan:

We didn't do anything special in Liverpool other than just get ready to set up at a base in Great Britain with our equipment, our anti-aircraft equipment, which consisted of a 40-millimeter cannon and four 50-millimeter machine guns as a quad. They worked as one unit.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Where did you have training for this?

William Langfan:

At Fort Eustis, at Fort Eustis where we had the basic training.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Was this an anti-aircraft squad or were they together?

William Langfan:

Yes, the two units were separate, but they were used in conjunction with each other.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How large was the unit?

William Langfan:

There were just nine of us.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Only two went over?

William Langfan:

Nine of us stayed together all the way across Europe right to practically Czechoslovakia, all nine.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How long were you in Liverpool?

William Langfan:

Liverpool, very short period of time. Then we set up at an air base. It was near a small town. I can't remember the town.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Near London?

William Langfan:

It was a fair distance away from London. But it was an important air base --

Jacqueline Wilner:

What kind of --

William Langfan:

A British air base. It was a British air base.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Were there British antiaircraft units also?

William Langfan:

I don't remember seeing any.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you were responsible for some of the defense for England.

William Langfan:

Yes. As a matter of fact, it was great fortune that we were at an air base because the --
(Interview was interrupted by a knock on the door.)

William Langfan:

-- fact that we were at the air base gave us the opportunity to shoot at the buzz bombs which started to come over, the V-1s. And it was so important that we guard this base from the V-1s that our deployment to the Normandy Beachhead was pushed back. And instead of landing D plus three, we wound up landing D plus 33, which was extremely lucky, because at D 33 things had quieted down considerably.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Do you remember the date of this, Bill?

William Langfan:

The date? Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

When the front bombs started.

William Langfan:

When they first started? Just -- my recollection is that it started somewhat before D-Day, a little before June 6, 1944. The exact date I don't remember, but it was those buzz bombs that might have saved my life, because landing D three was very, very tough, whereas D 33 things had quieted down considerably and there was little or no activity.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you have any casualties from the buzz bombs in your area?

William Langfan:

Not a one. Not a one.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Were you active in antiaircraft?

William Langfan:

Do you mean shooting?

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you shoot down planes?

William Langfan:

No. They were too rapid for us. But we kept on trying. We kept on trying to shoot them down. But we didn't have any success.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you were two units of antiaircraft, nine men each.

William Langfan:

No, just one unit.

Jacqueline Wilner:

I thought there were two units that were together.

William Langfan:

No, just one. There were other units, but not with us. We just were a completely separate entity always. Although we were attached to a battery, the fact is that we were always on our own. We never worked in conjunction with anyone else.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Interesting.

William Langfan:

And on the landing barge I started thinking --

Jacqueline Wilner:

This is --

William Langfan:

This is on the way to Normandy. We were on the way to Normandy, beachhead on Normandy.

Jacqueline Wilner:

This is D-Day plus 33.

William Langfan:

Plus 33. I said, gee, with all the French that I had in high school and college, I can't talk French. That's terrible. But I've got to have some way of meeting the people. So I decided to try to translate the Chattanooga Choo Choo into French, which I did. And the first French people whom I saw over there I tried it on them and we had a lot of laughs.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Yep.

William Langfan:

And gradually French started coming back to me and in short order I became an interpreter in French.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Let's get back to D plus 33. You were on a landing barge?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

With how many others?

William Langfan:

Not too many. It wasn't that big a barge. It was we nine and I don't remember if there was anybody else.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Were you taking your equipment with you?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So it was the nine men on the barge with equipment and some others. And you didn't have any trouble landing, I assume, D plus 33.

William Langfan:

No, no trouble whatsoever.

Jacqueline Wilner:

When you got ashore, what happened at that point? Where did you go? Who took you?

William Langfan:

We were told to set up at a given area.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Close by or a distance away?

William Langfan:

A little advance.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you get there?

William Langfan:

We just --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you have to carry this equipment? Did you go on trucks?

William Langfan:

We had a truck eventually. We always traveled with a truck that took the cannon and the quad of machine guns.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you were setting up someplace in France not too far from Normandy --

William Langfan:

Somewhere in the area of Sainte-Mere-Eglise. We had not broken out of the hedge rows yet. There was still -- we still had never broken through in order to advance out of the basic beachhead at that point. Then it was not too long thereafter when things started advancing and then we started moving.

Jacqueline Wilner:

When you first set up were there a lot of planes that you were shooting at?

William Langfan:

No, none whatsoever. We never shot.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So their aircraft were -- the aircraft I guess you had demolished them.

William Langfan:

Evidently, because we really never had to --

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you were doing a job that was not necessary at that point.

William Langfan:

For all practical purposes, that's accurate.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you bide your time while you were there?

William Langfan:

We played cards for the most part and read.

Jacqueline Wilner:

And craps.

William Langfan:

No, it was too small.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How long were you in that area?

William Langfan:

Oh, not for a very long period of time. I can't remember exactly. But it was no more than a few days and then we broke out and we went a fair distance. Then we set up.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Again.

William Langfan:

Again.

Jacqueline Wilner:

As an antiaircraft?

William Langfan:

Yes. Self-contained unit.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Let me go back just a little bit. Before you went from England to France, to Normandy, did you have any association with chaplains in the service? Were there any other Jewish men with you? I am trying to get back to the Judaism a little bit.

William Langfan:

Of our nine, I was the only Jewish person. I did not encounter any chaplains at all.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you encounter any anti-Semitism?

William Langfan:

I would say just jokingly. There happened to be five Irish fellows from Boston in my nine. So we used to kid around a little bit, but nothing that was anti-Semitic, per se.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Okay, now let's go back to where you were in France and you're moving forward.

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you go out of France? Did you go beyond France?

William Langfan:

Oh, yes. We went through -- well, actually after France we went to Belgium and we set up outside of Bastogne. And, as a matter of fact, Bastogne is noted as the main Battle of the Bulge city. That's when Bastogne was surrounded and General McAuliffe made his famous speech which he said that's when the Germans asked for the surrender. But we had a strange experience at Bastogne. Bastogne was headquarters and we were set up, the nine of us --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Headquarters for the U.S. Army?

William Langfan:

Yes, for the Third Army, Patton's Third Army. We were just a little outside of Bastogne, the nine of us, with our 40-millimeter cannon and the quad of four 50-millimeter -- 50-caliber, excuse me, 50-caliber machine gun. It was 40-millimeter cannon and 50-caliber machine guns. So we were completely on our own. We would get food from the Army regularly, but, in order to fill in, I would go out and get vegetables and switch our bread for their bread. They loved our white bread and we liked the dark bread. So we did exchanges. And, as a result, I was really out every day. And I would go to Bastogne and I had a steak, French fried potatoes, whip cream cakes virtually every day.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you get there?

William Langfan:

I walked. It wasn't that far away. And I had a shave almost every day at the barber shop. I had someone doing my laundry. This went on from sometime in September until December. It was a great, great experience. All I was doing was playing around. Then, all of a sudden, things started getting rough. We started hearing that the Germans were breaking through areas that weren't far away. And then all of a sudden we were told to leave. And we set up about two or three kilometers outside of Bastogne and, instead of anti-aircraft, we were told to use our cannon as an anti-tank. We had never had any experience with that. And our cannon was not capable of damaging a tank, per

se. So they told us in the event that a German tank came near us that we would try to shoot where the treads were. Fortunately, they never broke through there, but it was a scary feeling. I was the only one who had had any experience with a bazooka. We had one bazooka and I had one shell and I kept the shell underneath my blouse because it would have gotten frozen. It was so cold that, if it were out, it would have gotten frozen and it would have been useless. And I was the only one who was capable of shooting the bazooka. And, fortunately, I never had to shoot it because the Germans never broke through a specific area where we were. And every day, without fail, there were clouds and clouds and bad weather and cold. And one morning I was on guard duty and I saw the sunrise and I saw that the clouds had dissipated and the sky was relatively clear and I woke everybody up and I said, fellows, this is the end of the troubles. You're going to see a black sky very shortly. And not too long thereafter, the sky was black with our planes and that was the end of the Battle of the Bulge.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Interesting.

William Langfan:

It was the beginning of the end of the German Army.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You predicted it, though.

William Langfan:

Well I saw it. I knew that the planes would start coming over, because they couldn't do anything for days because there was just the low clouds hanging over for days and days. And that really -- then we really -- that was the only time --

Jacqueline Wilner:

This was December then.

William Langfan:

Yes. This was late in December, because it was earlier that the real trouble began there. That was known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You said you had one bazooka and one shell. Was this indicative of the lack of appropriate equipment?

William Langfan:

I would say yes, absolutely.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What about clothing? You said it was very cold. Were you dressed adequately?

William Langfan:

We had ample clothing.

Jacqueline Wilner:

But not equipment. How about ammunition of all kinds?

William Langfan:

Regular ammunition, yes, we had ample supplies, but the bazooka had just one shell.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you have enough equipment with you?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Then, on from Bastogne.

William Langfan:

On from Bastogne we started toward Germany and we stopped at the Rhine, and just for a short period of time, then we got word that we were going to cross the Rhine, which we did.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you cross the Rhine, by _____ bridges?

William Langfan:

Yes. Then we just went on and on until we were in Lan Kraus Tubingen (ph) when the war ended, which was not too many kilometers away from the Czechoslovakian border.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So you were in the southwestern part of Germany.

William Langfan:

It was west, I would say -- it was more middle than south I guess. And we stayed there for awhile. I don't remember how long. Then, when we told the Germans that the Russians were going to be taking over that area, they refused to believe it. We said you better believe it, because that's what's happening. Then we took off. And we went to Rheims, France where the champagne is made.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Spell it.

William Langfan:

R -- well, it is spelled differently in English than it is in French. In English it's R-h-e-i-m-s. In French I am quite sure it's R-e-i-m-s. And we used to call it Rheims and they called it Reims and neither one of us would understand where we were. I knew where we were, but the average guy said Rheims and that looked like a foreign word to the French and Reims, no GI would understand Reims.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you get to see a bottle of champagne?

William Langfan:

No. My first night of duty was outside, it was across the way from a house of ill repute. Our orders were nobody with a uniform is to be allowed in that building. And we were adhering to that instruction assiduously. The madam came out and started talking. And we were talking French. And she said that previously uniformed personnel, other than American uniformed personnel, were allowed to come in, why wasn't anybody coming in. I said that was our instructions. She said I think maybe you have wrong instructions. So I made contact with our officer of the day and I said I think you ought to check it out, because she seemed rather sincere in what she said. And he did ascertain that only American GIs were not allowed in, but other foreign personnel were allowed in. And I rang the doorbell and she came -- someone came and then she came and I told her that now other uniformed personnel would be allowed in, we checked it out. So a few minutes later she came out with sandwiches for us and we were friends. But that was the first night that I was out, because our outfit had been converted into military police. Then, not too many days thereafter, I was looking at the bulletin board and I saw a notice Go To School. And I looked at it and it listed Cambridge University, Oxford University and the Sorbonne. So I said I want an application. I got an application and Oxford was number one, Cambridge was number two and the Sorbonne as number three. It didn't take more than a day or two, I was called into the office and I was told that I was going to Paris. I said it's about time I got a pass. They said you're not getting a pass, you're going to school there. And I was accepted for the Sorbonne. I wound up going to Paris for two months.

Jacqueline Wilner:

And what did you study there?

William Langfan:

French language and civilization. There were four degrees of classes and I was next to the top class. It was all conducted in French. Fortunately, I had won heavily in a dice game, so I went to Paris with loads of money. Three hours of classes six days a week and 21 hours to do anything that I wanted. No questions asked.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What was the purpose of this course?

William Langfan:

They felt that unless and until we were going to be sent to Japan or the war was over with Japan, they wanted to keep us occupied doing things that were constructive. So they thought of universities for GIs.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How many GIs went?

William Langfan:

At the Sorbonne there were approximately 800.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Really?

William Langfan:

We had regular dormitories at the Sorbonne. Not too many fellas were sleeping in the dormitory but there were dormitories. And we had regular mess if we wanted it.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Good French food.

William Langfan:

Well, it wasn't French. The war was just over, so they didn't have too much. But an amusing incident happened. There were a lot of them, but this particular one stands out. I have never forgotten it, never will. I was on a chow line. And I never did mix milk and meat products.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Interesting.

William Langfan:

So the girl was putting something on my tray and then she was about to put something on that was going to be violative of milk and meat. Just automatically I came out and said no, no, no +. I tell you, there were a couple of guys on the line who were Jewish and understood a little Yiddish and we started laughing and we couldn't contain ourselves, because it had come out and it sounded so funny when it came out. It really was a funny thing to say to mix the French and the Yiddish.

Jacqueline Wilner:

That's wonderful.

William Langfan:

That was a cute little experience.

Jacqueline Wilner:

That's so interesting that, although you were not observant, you kept some part of your background.

William Langfan:

I was kosher for my first three plus years in college. I never had beef on the outside. I used to eat at a rabbi's home about three times a week.

Jacqueline Wilner:

So after you finished at the Sorbonne?

William Langfan:

After I finished at the Sorbonne it was time to go to the final port for returning to the United States. And that was the port of Antwerp.

Jacqueline Wilner:

When was that? When was the date, roughly?

William Langfan:

It was around the end of September of '45. I was in Paris, by the way, for the first July 14th, that French experience, since the beginning of the war or since the time the Germans took over Paris. And that was quite a day, quite an evening.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What do you remember about it?

William Langfan:

It was just celebrating and just everybody kissing everybody and drinking and dancing. It was just an extraordinarily joyful experience. It went straight through the night.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Like VJ day in Europe.

William Langfan:

Yeah. Then at Antwerp I had a rather amusing experience. I went broke in a dice game at camp. I envisioned, I envisioned being on a ship going over with no money. I said that can't be. So I looked at my watch and I said, well, I've had you for a long time, I've got to sell you. So I went to Antwerp and I found an area, something like the 47th Street area of Manhattan, which is the jewelry district. And I stopped a man and I asked him if he wanted to buy a watch. He started laughing. He opened his jacket, had a vest all full of watches. And we began talking. And he said why do you want to sell your watch? And I told him that I had gone broke. And one word led to another. The next thing you know, instead of talking French we started talking Yiddish. Turned out that he was a Jewish vendor of watches. And he said, come, we're going to eat. So he took me into a restaurant and we started talking. And I remembered when I had gone through Belgium the first time that there was a tremendous difference between the so-called GI rate of exchange of French and Belgian francs against the so-called gray or black market. Whereas the French franc had a value of 50 to the dollar, the Belgian franc had a value of 44 to the dollar. But in Belgium the French franc was two francs to one Belgian franc. And that was in the back of my mind. And in the dice games they were interchangeable, 44 and 50. They were too much trouble to try to compute. So they were interchangeable. So I said, you know -- END OF TRACK ONE; BEGIN TRACK TWO.

William Langfan:

-- if you were to give me a substantial amount of French francs, I would return to the unit with exactly the same amount of Belgian francs and we'd make double profit. And he said, you know, I'm going to trust you. And he got a whole slew of French francs, gave them to me. I went back to camp. I exchanged them for Belgian francs. Went back to him. He turned them into French francs. He gave me half of the profit. And then I went back to camp. Now I was in business with my own half and half of what I brought back of the profit that I was making on his money. And I did this a few times. And the next thing you know, I had several thousand dollars out of nothing.

Jacqueline Wilner:

And you still had your watch.

William Langfan:

And I still had the watch.

Jacqueline Wilner:

And the trip home was --

William Langfan:

Then I was sad that I got macho and wanted to go home. I never dreamt that I'd be sad going home. This could have gone on for a long period of time. Of course I wanted to go home, so I didn't delay it. And I got on the ship with several thousand dollars and I ran the dice game the whole way over.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did you keep in touch with your family when you were overseas?

William Langfan:

I wrote a letter almost every day.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Good son.

William Langfan:

And they didn't believe what I was writing, because I was telling them the things that was happening and they just thought I was trying to cheer them up. I was going out. I met gals in all the towns. Of course there weren't too many fellas that could talk French and it was just kind of very easy for me to get along with them.

Jacqueline Wilner:

And where did you come back to?

William Langfan:

Came back to New York and there was Fort Dix and I was discharged in a couple of days. That was October, that was October of '45.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Then what did you do?

William Langfan:

Well I didn't really do anything special at that point except trying to get back into the groove of civilian life. Then I applied for law school and I was accepted for Colombia -- for Cornell Law School.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you complete your law school?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you practice in New York?

William Langfan:

No. I never went into law. I went into business.

Jacqueline Wilner:

An entrepreneur from your college days. Did you get any medals while you were overseas?

William Langfan:

Well, battle stars, but no medals, as such. I really never had combat. I was there, but never had combat. The only time that we ever fired against planes, other than against the buzz rounds, was virtually at the end of the war the Germans started flying jets. And we did fire against jets for just a couple of days. That was the only time that we really fired against planes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you hit any?

William Langfan:

No. We didn't hit any American planes, either.

Jacqueline Wilner:

That's very, very good. Good training. One of the questions is what did you do on leave. I think you spent a lot of time on leave while you were in Europe.

William Langfan:

I was always --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you keep a personal diary?

William Langfan:

No. Oh, I had to destroy all the letters that I had during the Battle of the Bulge. When we left Bastogne and set up outside of Bastogne we were specifically told to get rid of anything. So if I had have had a diary, it would have been destroyed.

Jacqueline Wilner:

This was so it would not fall in the hands of the Germans.

William Langfan:

Yes. I had some very, very wonderful letters that I would have loved to have kept.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you burn them?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

When you went back to law school, was your education supported by the GI Bill?

William Langfan:

Yes.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you make any close friendships while you were in the service?

William Langfan:

Not really. Not really, because there were just nine of us and none of them from the New York area. And, as I said earlier, there were five Irish fellows from Boston. I used to kid around with their accents all the time. We used to be very playful about that.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you join any veterans organizations?

William Langfan:

Not really. I guess American -- the Jewish Veterans.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Jewish War Veterans. Are you still involved with them?

William Langfan:

I pay dues. I don't --

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general?

William Langfan:

Well, I've always felt that war was a rather stupid thing. But sometimes it is necessary. I remember that I was a strong adherent of the United States getting involved very early. As a matter of fact, when I was at university I was on the debate team and it was either 1940 or '41, I think it was '40, where the subject for the year for universities was resolved that the United States should maintain a strict policy of economic and military isolation toward all nations outside of the Western Hemisphere engaged in armed international conflict. That was the subject for the year. And I was very strongly against it. I felt that we should be involved virtually from inception of the war. I was a small minority which grew and grew. And then eventually laboriously congress just barely passed in 1940 the Selective Service Act. They were afraid to call it the draft. They called it a Selective Service Act and it was enacted for only one year. And in October, September, October of '41, it just barely squeaked through the senate. It won by one vote. And if that one vote had gone the other way, all of the men who were in the army would have been discharged and in December, just three months later, we would have had to begin all over again from scratch. So it was a blessing that that one senate vote went the right way.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You remember that?

William Langfan:

I remember this just as if it happened today.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How did your service experience affect your life?

William Langfan:

Well, the service, per se, didn't affect my life, but I would say that my experiences, particularly after having entered Buchenwald concentration camp a day after it was liberated.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You didn't tell me that.

William Langfan:

I am telling it to you now. It was an experience that was absolutely unforgettable. I saw the bodies on the carts. I saw the men skinny as an arm. And it was just an unbelievable site.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Your experiences in Europe, you went from Bastogne into Germany. When were you actually in Buchenwald?

William Langfan:

I don't remember the date, but it was just immediately after we liberated it. It was like a day or so after that.

Jacqueline Wilner:

It must have been such a harrowing experience.

William Langfan:

It was terrible. And my experience in the army -- one thing that I learned from it or I experienced from it was the fact that you could surmount almost any type of difficulty if you just put your mind to it. For example, we would sleep sometimes in very, very uncomfortable circumstances. I would use a jerry can, that was this can of gasoline. We called it a jerry can. The Germans invented it. I would use that as a pillow, the hard metal can as a pillow, and it was luxurious to have a thing of that nature. So since I got out of the army nothing really phases me about comfort. I try to be as comfortable as possible, but if a situation presents itself where there wasn't comfort to me, it never really bothered me, because everything was great when you compared it to some of the places where I slept or tried to sleep in the army.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Did you sleep in tents or did you --

William Langfan:

We had pup tents. In our nine there were pup tents and I had a tent mate. My tent mate was the cook. He did all the cooking for us.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Let's go back to Buchenwald for a minute if you don't mind. When you liberated the camp --

William Langfan:

We didn't librate it, per se. We went in after it had been liberated, but it was immediately after.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How were you able to help the prisoners?

William Langfan:

Well, I gave some food to some of the people. I tried to talk to the people. I talked to some of them in Yiddish. I tried to talk with them as much as possible.

Jacqueline Wilner:

How long were you at the camp?

William Langfan:

Not long. Not long. Just pulled out of that area. But I was just there for a couple of days.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Do you have any idea what happened to the people after you left? Did the army take over?

William Langfan:

The army had taken over. But what happened after that, I don't know.

Jacqueline Wilner:

It certainly had an effect on your life.

William Langfan:

Oh, yes. I had heard as I was going on that things of that nature were happening. But to see it and to feel it and experience it just words can never describe it.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Sure. Anything you would like to add, Bill, that we have not covered in this interview?

William Langfan:

What I would like to add is that I think that basic training should be much more severe than I experienced. I think that basic training should be so structured that everybody should go through the type of training that Marines go through or that so-called elite forces go through, perhaps not as strong as the elite, but very close to it. I think that we should have very, very strong training.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Do you feel you were not prepared well enough if you were in severe fighting?

William Langfan:

Absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What type of preparation did you feel you lacked?

William Langfan:

I had not enough experience with the equipment. From a physical point of view, I don't think that I was physically fit enough, because I just had a fairly easy life at university and I think that I should have been forced to have more strenuous exercising and drilling. And I think that that should be a very, very obligatory part of training to harden a soldier so that he can really, really tough it out on better than equal terms with anybody.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Hope the army is listening. Perhaps it's changed over the years.

William Langfan:

I hope so.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Any other experiences or comments you'd like to make?

William Langfan:

Every German who I met pleaded innocent that he had nothing to do with it and that he was against Hitler, etcetera, etcetera. I never encountered a German who indirectly even admitted that he was for Hitler.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Where did you have this direct contact with Germans?

William Langfan:

I did interpreting in German with my zerbrochene, broken Yiddish. This is a little interesting. I had such an easy time in France with my French that I thought that perhaps with my Yiddish I could do a little translating. But I just could not put a sentence together. So I looked for a grammar book. I couldn't find an English-German grammar book but I did find a French-German grammar book and I learned how to conjugate German verbs. Before you know it, I was able to construct sentences. One thing I remember vividly about that. The Germans had the past participle at the end of the sentence. I said to hell with that, I'm going to put them together and they'll understand it well enough. And within relatively short order I was speaking in German well enough that I could get vegetables and speak to people and at the camps talk to people in a reasonably intelligent fashion.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Well, you gained a lot. Did you do anything with the courses that you took in the Sorbonne? Was it just general knowledge?

William Langfan:

No, I got nine college credits which I didn't need because already had my degree. But it was very intense. It was all conducted in French. Sharpened my French. I've got to tell you about this one. Marshal Petain was on trial when we were in Paris. Another friend and I went over to the courthouse and we wanted to witness it. And we were turned down by the police. And I was talking

very politely and I said we're journalists and we were writing for our newspaper and we want to write did it. And as much as I tried to persuade them, they refused to let us in.

Jacqueline Wilner:

You were in uniform.

William Langfan:

Yes. So I said I'm going to write my article and I'm going to write my article about the politeness of the French police. And then my friend and I walked down. We were walking down the steps of the courthouse and we bumped into a French friend of ours. And he said, boy, you two fellows look like you lost your best friends. I said, well, we were trying to get into the trial and the police wouldn't let us in. He said I'll get you in. So he brought us up and he started talking to the police. He said what did you tell the policeman? I said I told him what I told him. He said they don't won't to let you in, but I'll get you in. I said tell them they didn't really understand, tell them that they really didn't understand what I said. So we did get in and I was able to see about an hour or so of the trial.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Who was this friend?

William Langfan:

Marshal Petain.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Who was the friend that got you in?

William Langfan:

It was a friend that we met. We met several Parisian people.

Jacqueline Wilner:

What kind of influence did he have?

William Langfan:

Must have had a lot of influence. He got us in. Palled around with this one fellow who was from the 82nd Airborne division and, by coincidence, he is in Fort Lauderdale -- excuse me, he's in Miami Beach. He started in Fort Lauderdale. He's in Miami Beach. He is very Israeli -- very Israel conscious. As a matter of fact, he was president of the shul where Rabbi Feldman now is.

Jacqueline Wilner:

Really. Well this has been a very interesting and certainly worthwhile interview.

William Langfan:

I'm sorry that I must have been that I did nothing constructive -- (Interview interrupted by a telephone call.)

William Langfan:

-- that I really did nothing constructive to help win the war. I just never had an opportunity to do that. I was just there and I must say that we were very lucky.

Jacqueline Wilner:

We're lucky that you're back safe and I thank you very much on behalf of Temple Emanuel and the project -- Eyewitness to History Project for the Library of Congress. Thank you, Bill.

[Home](#) » **Text Transcript**

A4

Palm Beach Daily News, Sunday, March 30, 2003

BASICS

Ilyinsky: 'Too bad American television is making a spectator sport out of this'

From Page A1

world."

Watching the war unfold in his living room is difficult to grasp for a veteran of a war captured largely by print and radio journalists.

"We're in enemy territory on enemy ground, watching the war go on," Horowitz said. "I can't understand it."

Ilyinsky is offended by the media coverage, comparing the 24-hour reports to the "games" the Romans watched in the Coliseum. "Too bad that American television is making a spectator sport out

of this," he said.

The veterans all agree that, despite the horrors of war, this one is worth fighting.

Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government have left the United States with only one choice, Langfan said.

"My feeling is that we should not permit him to be in control of Iraq. Either he divests himself of control — or we have to do it for him," he said.

The United States made a mistake by letting Adolph Hitler run wild for too long, Horowitz said.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Is a member of your family serving in the armed forces, living or working in the Middle East?

We'd like to hear from you. If you would be willing to talk to a reporter, please call City Editor Frank Houston at 820-3860 or e-mail him at fhouston@pbdailynews.com.

"Nobody wants war, but this is something that has to be done not only for the U.S., but for the rest of the world," he said.

Ilyinsky said he hopes war ends quickly and people will support the volunteer military, regardless of how they feel about the sons behind the conflict.

He and many of his soldiers did not support the war in Korea, but they considered a "position" in Korea, but he does support the war against Iraq.

"I think we needed to get rid of Mr. Saddam Hussein," he said. "Wars are horrible things, but sometimes they are the only tool you can

Clipped By:



mapmun

Thu, Dec 13, 2018

Jewish Journal

PALM BEACH NORTH
August 5, 2003

LETTERS

Don't release one prisoner

To the Editor:

Hamas leader Yassin has stated very clearly the "peaceful" intention of Hamas. Israel must release prisoners and Israeli troops must leave the areas taken over since September 2000 or the truce will end. In simple terms, this would mean that the terrorist organization Hamas would be reinforced with released prisoners in order for the truce to last until Hamas decides that it is strong enough to recommence its terrorism in conjunction with the other terrorist groups.

There will never be a semblance of peace between Israel and the Palestinians as long as the terrorist entities exist. Unless and until a strong Palestinian leadership undertakes the task of destroying these terrorist groups, Israel should not release one prisoner; nor should it relinquish one inch of control of territory.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH



Opinion

February 10, 2004

Leave Out Hate

By: William K. Langfan

We have become a nation of haters. When **Bill Clinton** was president, much of the "right" hated him with a passion just as many of the "left" today hate President Bush.

A president of the United States is the president of everyone in the United States.

One can disagree with the president or anyone on an issue or on many issues; however, those differences can and should be addressed in a civil manner without spewing venom.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2004-02-10-0402090274-story.html>

Palm Beach Daily News, Sunday, May 2, 2004

LETTERS

Mideast extremists not all equal

Re: The article in your April 26 edition about S. Daniel Abraham in which Mr. Abraham refers to 10 to 12 percent of fundamentalists on both sides as the loudest and most violent.

It is ludicrous for Mr. Abraham to equate suicide murderers of non-military Israelis by Palestinian terrorists with the killing of Palestinian terrorists by Israeli defense forces. With the exception of one incident, there is no evi-

dence of extremist Israelis killing Palestinians.

Furthermore, can Mr. Abraham point to one Israeli jumping with joy when there is word of a Palestinian terrorist being killed? There are numerous videos of Palestinians celebrating after receiving news of the success of a Palestinian suicide bomber.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

SunSentinel



Opinion

October 7, 2004

Target Practice

By: William K. Langfan

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered the Israeli Defense Forces to stop the barrage of missiles from the Gaza Strip. Thus, the Israeli Army and Air Force are engaged in a major confrontation with the terrorists in Gaza.

This attack on Gaza should enable Israel to practice the type of attacks required to squelch the much larger missile attacks that Israel can look forward to after they give complete control of Gaza to the Palestinians.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2004-10-07-0410060732-story.html>

2B THE PALM BEACH POST • MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2005 W C

METRO REPORT



J. GWENDOLYNNE BERRY/Staff Photographer

World War II heroes honored

Justin Langfan, 10, laughs with his grandfather, Bill Langfan, at a banquet for local veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, fought in Europe. Sunday's event was at the Hilton near Palm Beach International Airport.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

August 30, 2006

Obsolete Expressions

“Land for Peace” should be renamed “Land for Rockets.”

When will the Peace Now crowd realize that the old cliché about making peace with enemies and not friends is hardly applicable when your enemies don't want peace?

I sincerely hope that expressions such as “land for peace,” “peace of the brave” and “peace now” disappear from the Hebrew lexicon for the foreseeable future.

Israel must be prepared to respond so forcefully that Syria and Iran will think very carefully before they unleash their proxies or themselves against Israel.

William K. Langfan

Palm Beach, FL

Palestinians have to alter mind-set to have peace

The last sentence in the Sept. 14 editorial " Hamas to share power; reality may be setting in" refers to the Palestinian government's need "to work out a deal that gives Israelis the safe, secure lives they want."

This can only occur if and when there is a complete transformation in the mind-set of the Palestinians and Arabs. Their media must cease the constant vitriol toward Israel and Jews. Their leaders must continuously state in Arabic that everyone will benefit from peace with Israel. The school textbooks must eliminate all negative references to Jews and Israelis. There must be interaction between journalists, professors and business people.

In simple terms, the relationships should be developed along the path that was taken by the United States and allies with Germany and Japan after World War II.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Magnanimity to bombers not an option for Israel

In an Oct. 12 letter in *The Palm Beach Post*, the writer was extremely magnanimous in suggesting that Israel forgive Palestinians for suicide bombings as the Amish forgave the murderer of the schoolchildren (“Let Israelis take lesson from forgiveness of Amish”).

The letter-writer overlooked the fact that suicide bombings are part of a plan to destroy Israel. Furthermore, a majority of Palestinians elected Hamas to represent them with the full knowledge that Ismael Haniya, their new prime minister, openly has declared that his party will destroy Israel in stages.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

While former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld continued to rant, Elmer Gantry-style, "I leave office very proud to have served," and while the Iraq Study Group took eight months to formulate its report, an additional 600 young soldiers came home in body bags ("Judge weighs Rumsfeld torture trial," Dec. 9). Although the study group plan is better than the Bush administration's non-plan of keep on spending, keep on fighting, keep on dying, the only immediate effect of the group's plan on President Bush is a change in rhetorical euphemisms from "stay the course" to "the way forward."

This means we do not know what to do to extricate ourselves from the greatest foreign-policy disaster in U.S. history, so give us more time. I suggest that the president change the saying to "Things will be great in 2008," except that, by then, we will receive another shipment of full body bags. I pray

that your son, daughter, mother or father is not in one of them. Thousands of Americans died in Vietnam after both our government and the American people agreed that the war was a mistake. Our leaders told us that our credibility depended on our keeping our word, no matter how foolish that word might have been. Only a fool does not learn from past mistakes. We must have foreign-policy changes now, not later.

To start, Mr. Bush and the Congress must be forced to act now on the Iraq Study Group recommendation for broad regional diplomacy. This is a needed step to bring our troops home from Iraq. With war, sanctioned torture, kidnapping, secret prisons, rampant corruption, wasteful spending, excessive spending, and on and on, we are well down the spiral of both financial and moral bankruptcy.

RONALD SLOOP
Palm Beach Gardens

Maybe Crist means that 'people's governor' thing

If Gov-elect Charlie Crist had underlying motives for changing his inauguration plans ("Crist retreats on ritz debut," Dec. 10), I really don't care. As a Democrat who did not vote for him, I am very pleasantly surprised by his decision and the tone it sets for the future.

After years spent reporting on Gov. Bush, who consistently reacted to any real or perceived criticism with stubborn entrenchment, *Post* writers may be forgiven for not recognizing Mr. Crist's actions for what I believe they are: a recognition of, and a response to, the will of the people. He actually pointed no fingers, did not arrange for leaks to protect himself, nor did he use his political allies to put a happy face on the situation.

Instead, Gov-elect Crist stood tall and said, "I made a mistake," and then laid out his plan to correct it. Wow! I'm sure barrels of melting salts were needed in Tallahassee. This "People's Governor" thing may actually be more than a political slogan. Let's all hope!

CHRISTINE CARTER
Lonsdale

The sharing of talents on Thanksgiving is a blessing

On Thanksgiving, my daughter and I participated in the preparation of meals for the needy at the fire station on Northlake Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens. It was gratifying to see the number of families, churches and organizations who were working together, giving freely of their time and talents to help so many other people ("Thanksgiving spirit extends well beyond family dinner tables," Nov. 24).

Recognition should be given to Tom DeNita of Palm Beach Gardens, who started this program a few years ago by preparing and serving 17 meals. This year, more than 1000 meals were served in Palm Beach County alone.

Thanks to all who make this project a huge success and who helped contribute to the full meaning of Thanksgiving.

HOWARD V. HALLBERG
Palm Beach Gardens

ISG fails to recognize Israel's dilemma

Munich 1958 and the Iraq Study Group report ("The Iraq Study Group: A call for working together" Report cites parties, but real push is on Bush," Dec. 7) have one similar fatal theme: Sign an agreement, and peace will reign supreme.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and French Premier Edouard Daladier failed in 1938, and Jim Baker's and Lee Hamilton's group has failed to comprehend the intention of the signatories. Hitler concealed his intent to attack Eastern Europe after Germany controlled the Sudetenland barrier.

The Baker group, however, is suggesting a "peace" deal ("Post" urges radical changes in policy," Dec. 7) even though the Palestinian-elected Hamas

leaders have promised in very clear statements that "Palestine means the whole peninsula from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea . . . and that they will accomplish this end in stages. The present mindset of the Palestinians precludes Israel from any divestiture of strategic land depth for a worthless Palestinian signature."

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Stop Holocaust denial before he starts his own

The criminal show being performed by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, and his followers in carrying out the farce of Holocaust denial ("Iran's leader says West lies with anti-Israel talk," Dec. 10) reached the height of hypocrisy when he pardoned ultra-Orthodox Jewish rabbis to prove his blatantly anti-Israel tirades.

Haven't the poor Holocaust survivors lived through enough denials? In England, a Holocaust denier, David Irving, was proven in a court case to have fabricated lies and "manufactured" evidence to deny the Holocaust. He was reprimanded severely by the British judge who presided over the case. Now Ahmadinejad is trying to build another case against Israel's right to exist. He is a menace not only to Israel but to the rest of the world. Civilized nations must stop this crazed fanatic before he starts a nuclear holocaust.

LEON WOLPER
Palm City

McCain's right about Iraq -- and oh, so wrong

Sen. John McCain's approach to keep feeding Iraq more troops to "win" this war ("McCain wants thousands more troops in Iraq," Dec. 15) is probably the right decision based upon a modern strategic military option. After all, Sen. McCain, by virtue of his unfortunate position as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, supported a military solution when the rest of the country was getting tired of an unwinnable war and the anti-war movement was picking up momentum, as it is doing today. The problem with his military solution is that it is flawed, because it probably would lead to more spilled American blood, and is destined to fail.

What we are realizing and what President Bush failed to predict is that no one country can go it alone and expect to imperially invade a country in this part of the world and force the people to accept Western ideology and its presence. Democracy does well when it becomes the natural order and evolution of a government brought on by the will of its people. Iraq and most other countries in this region are unfortunately just not ready for true democracy.

We need to stop thinking about a "victory" in the Iraq War and start thinking about a solution that gets us out of the abominable failure this war has created, with the hope of regaining the respect of our allies.

A.J. SHAY
West Palm Beach

Letters To The Editor

Published: January 24, 2017

Advice For Ahmadinejad

President Ahmadinejad of Iran has stated that Israel is a cancer that has no right to exist. During Israel's 58 years of existence its citizens have garnered more Nobel prizes than Iran and all the Arab countries combined. Inventions and medical breakthroughs by Israelis have enriched the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

Mr. Ahmadinejad, what have your Iranians contributed to enhance people's lives?

There are students from more than 70 countries enrolled at Israeli universities. How many students from foreign countries are at Iranian universities? When catastrophes have occurred, Israel is among the first countries to respond. When has Iran contributed to assist these people in distress?

Iran has been furnishing large sums of money to Hamas, Hizbullah and the insurgents in Iraq. There is no way to determine what percentage is being used to benefit the Palestinians, Lebanese and Iraqis; however, it is not debatable that a significant amount of this money is being used for munitions, digging of tunnels, and training people to wreak havoc.

If these funds were utilized to make small loans to people to create businesses as the Bangladeshi Nobel Prize winner has done, would not those funds have been utilized more wisely and more beneficially for the Palestinians, Lebanese and Iraqis?

Mr. Ahmadinejad, please don't try to live up to the third, fourth and fifth letters of your name. Instead, be a statesman and try to improve the lot of mankind.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*



**Published by The Freeman Center
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Political Analysis and Commentary
on Israeli and Jewish Affairs**

"For Zion's sake I shall not hold my peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I shall not rest."

FREEMAN CENTER BROADCAST- January 31, 2007

LETTER TO THE EDITOR RE: SYRIA FROM FREEMAN BOARD MEMBER

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Member of the Board of Directors
Freeman Center For Strategic Studies

January 31, 2007

Dear Editor:

James Baker testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on January 30, 2007. One of his major statements was that in his opinion, based upon his discussion with senior Syrian officials that "we could get them (Syrians) to get Hamas to recognize Israel's right to exist. It would be a huge step in the right direction."

Mr. Baker, would you please point to one issue in which Syria adhered to an agreement or performed in established international norms.

1. Syria violated the Tait agreement with Lebanon which required Syria to leave Lebanon many years ago. Syria did not leave Lebanon until she was forced to leave by a vote in the UN in 2006.
2. Syria has been transporting arms to Hezbollah and has used Hezbollah as its agent to attack Israel for many years.
3. Syria has openly been home to various terrorist organizations for many years.
4. Syria has allowed fully armed insurgents to attack our soldiers and Iraqis in Iraq.
5. Syria did join the allies against Saddam in the first Gulf War; however, the amount of actual aid that they contributed would require a microscopic search.
6. Syrian lobbed artillery shells into Israel from the 1949 armistice until she lost the Golan in the 1967 War.

Predicated upon Syria's lack of adherence to agreements and Hamas leaders' statements about destroying Israel in stages, Israel would be insane to cede the Golan to Syria and the West Bank to the Palestinians for an agreement with Syria and a Hamas recognition of Israel.

Very truly yours,

William K. Langfan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

February 3, 2007

Sacrifice for peace?

Sir, - Khaled Abu Toameh reported that the mother of suicide bomber Faisal Saksak, who attacked the bakery in Eilat on January 29, said she knew of her son's plan to blow himself up and had wished him good luck. The mother was also quoted as saying that she was prepared to sacrifice her remaining eight sons "for the sake of the Aqsa Mosque and Palestine."

Dozens of Palestinians chanting slogans against Israel and the US converged on the Saksaks' home to congratulate them on the success of the attack. If this is a cross-section of the Palestinian mind-set, how can any reasonable person contemplate negotiating for peace with the Palestinians

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach, Florida

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Letters/February-4-Its-not-the-kiss>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April 2, 2007

Saudi Plan Spells Israel's Demise

Re Caroline Glick's March 30 column ("The Saudi Plan To Destroy Israel"):

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi al-Faisal has declared that the "Lords of War" will decide Israel's future if Israel does not accept the Saudi proposal that Israel return to its 1967 borders and that East Jerusalem will become the capital of a Palestinian State. It is reasonable to assume that Saudi Arabia intends "1967 borders" to mean that the Golan would be returned to Syria. The Saudi also said that every Arab country will formally recognize Israel if Israel accepts his offer.

Sixty-nine years ago (1938), Hitler uttered almost the same words when he said that unless Germany were given the Sudetenland, Europe would face war. After the Munich pact was signed, Hitler's said there would be decades of peace. Several months later, he started World War II by attacking Poland.

The Saudi plan will have Hizbullah in its tunnels facing Israel from Lebanon, Syria in the Golan from where it fired artillery into Israel from 1948 until 1967, and the new State of Palestine with a government controlled by Hamas which has promised to destroy Israel.

We should remember that the Palestine Liberation Organization's constitution calling for the destruction of Israel was created three years before Israel had the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. In addition, non-Arab Iran has publicly declared on many occasions that Israel must be destroyed.

If any Israeli government agrees to the Saudi plan, it might as well negotiate Israel's demise, because the implementation of the Saudi plan is tantamount to Israel's destruction.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April 25, 2007

Democrats' Defeatism

If the United States leaves Iraq before it is reasonably pacified, Iran will step in to fill the vacuum. We will then be faced with an Iran on the way to nuclear bomb capability and an excellent launching site into Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates.

We cannot and must not allow a scenario of that nature to develop.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Reid's defeatist statements and the spending bill with date-certain departure that he is attempting to promulgate in the Senate are pathways to catastrophe.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Bad Neighbor

Condoleezza Rice and other Western leaders should consider the following facts and ask themselves whether they would attempt to negotiate peace with their neighbor under these circumstances:

- Your next-door neighbor dug a tunnel and killed and kidnapped your soldiers.

- Representatives of your neighbor repeated on numerous occasions that they intend to destroy you in stages.

- An important member your neighbor's hierarchy declared that you are not entitled to one inch of your territory.

- The acting head of your neighbor's Legislative Council preached in a televised sermon that Allah should count your people and kill them to the last one.

- In a previous attempt at "peace" your neighbor deceived you and the world into thinking he'd had annulled clauses in his charter calling for your destruction. In fact, the charter has never been modified.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

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Don't meet with Hamas

To the editor:

I don't know and I don't care where Rabbi Bruce Warshal obtained his poll figures in his Aug. 14 column, in which he alleged that 57 percent of Israelis support discussions with Hamas.

I am sure that either Warshal, who wants Israel to meet with Hamas, and the alleged 57 percent don't know what the leaders of Hamas repeatedly say or do, or they don't want to know.

Below, you will find three samples of utterances from the mouths of Hamas leaders and two samples of Hamas' neighborly conduct:

- On Aug. 6, the Hamas representative in Lebanon, Osama Hamda, referring to the Zionist entity, said, in an interview on Al-Kawthar TV: "We are making the preparation for a confrontation . . . the final goal of the resistance is to wipe this entity off the face of the earth. This goal necessitates the capabilities of the resistance until this entity is wiped out."

- Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar, on Al Manar TV Jan. 25, 2006: "We will not give up the sense of jihad . . . nor the war of tunnels and of security against the Israeli enemy, which ultimately led to its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank . . . Palestine means Palestine in its entirety -

from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River..."

- Hamas acting Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Sheik Ahmad Bahr in an April 13 sermon on Sudan TV: "Oh Allah, vanquish the Jews . . . vanquish the Americans and their supporters. Oh Allah, count their numbers and kill them all, down to the very last one...."

This is a small sample of the words that emanate from Hamas mouths.

Last year, Hamas dug a tunnel from Gaza into Israel, which resulted in the death of two soldiers and the kidnapping of another. On Aug. 15, *The Jerusalem Post* and *Haaretz* reported that the IDF discovered another tunnel from Gaza

into Israel.

If you were an Israeli or an American interested in the security of Israel, would you want the Israeli government to meet with Hamas?

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach

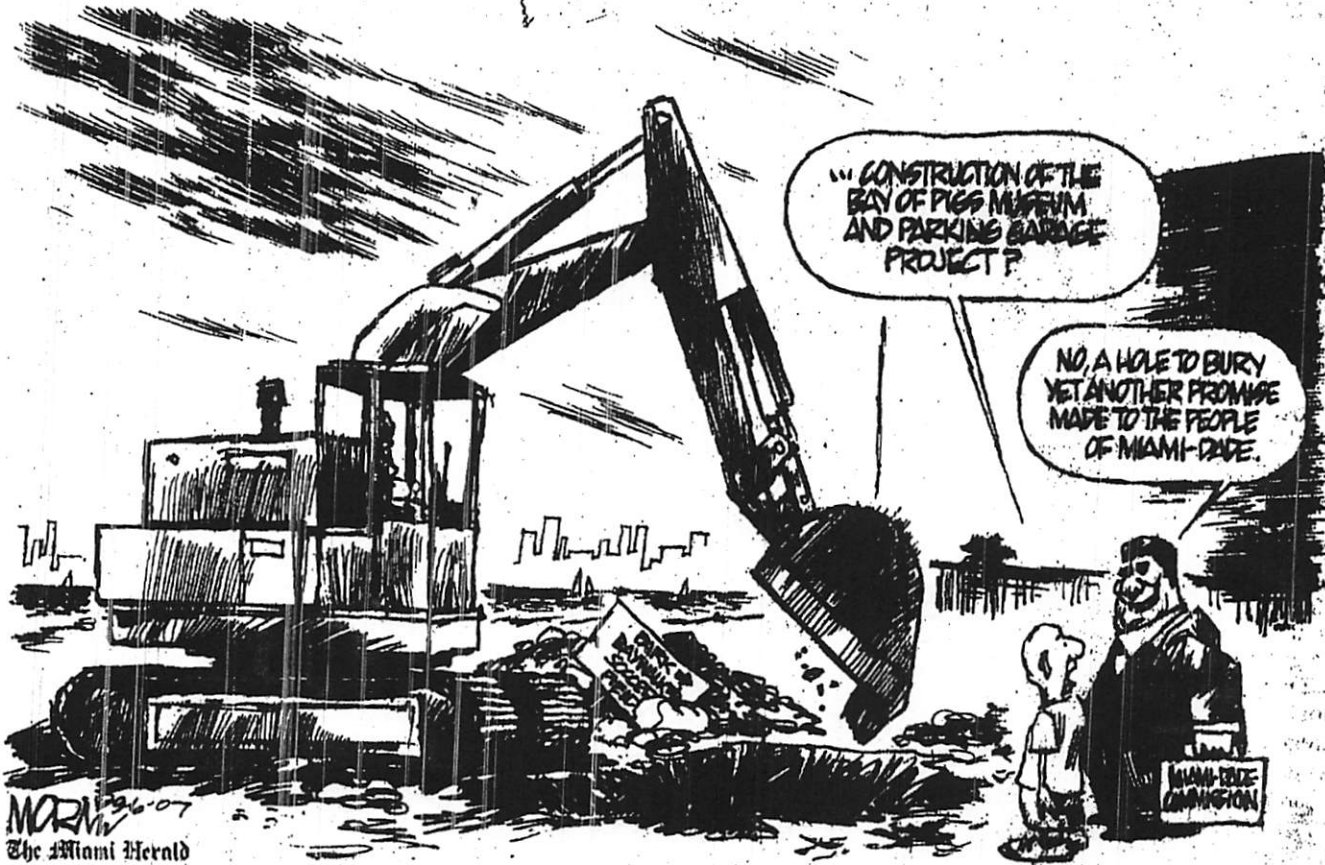
LETTERS

OPINION

ISBERG, PUBLISHER | ANDERS GYLLENHAAL, EXECUTIVE EDITOR | JOE OGLESBY, EDITORIAL PM

20A | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

A



THE READERS' FORM www.MiamiHerald.com (click on Opinion)

ALEXANDER FERRIS, MIAMI

KONIGOFF, Coral Gables

I feel so sorry for former Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne because obviously he cannot live on \$169,000. I wonder how many of his constituents would be thrilled to earn that much a year?

Not even a king or a resident is above the law. In Judaism a king is supposed to carry a Torah with him at all times to remind him he is not above the law. Maybe Ken Jenne needed some reminding.

- BRENDA ASCHER, Hollywood

Vietnam analogy

President Bush was half right: There is a compelling analogy between the Vietnam and Iraq wars. However, it is that, like Iraq, Vietnam would have been an even worse disaster had we "stayed the course."

- ANTHONY M. PAUL, Coral Gables

Israel's duty

Missiles from Gaza landing near a child daycare center and school in Sderot caused mothers to rush to the center to lead their children to safety.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should be devoting his time trying to solve the problem of daily missiles from Gaza into Israel rather than negotiating to donate more land to the Palestinians. They will utilize that land for more missile launches.

Israel must clearly tell the Palestinians that if they want to have a state, their conduct must satisfy Israel that they deserve to have a state. Thus far, there has not been one iota of change in the Palestinian mind-set that Israel is part of Palestine.

- WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Olmert should be focusing on missiles from Gaza

Missiles from Gaza landing near a child day care center and school in Sderot caused mothers to rush to the center to lead their children to safety.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should be trying to solve the problem of daily missiles from Gaza into Israel rather than negotiating to

donate more land to the Palestinians, which they will utilize for more launching of missiles.

Eight years of Oslo proved that the Palestinians are not partners for peace. The concept of unilateral withdrawal has also proved to be a failed policy.

Israel must hunker down and

clearly tell the Palestinians that if they want to have a state, their conduct must satisfy Israel that they deserve to have a state. Thus far, there has not been one iota of change in the Palestinian mindset that Israel is part of Palestine.

WILLIAM K. LANGEAN
PALM BEACH

Focus on Palestinians' threat, not a new state

Missiles from Gaza landing near a child day-care center and school in Sderot caused mothers to rush to the center to lead their children to safety ("Palestinian rocket lands near day-care center, angers Olmert," Sept. 4).

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should be devoting his time to trying to solve the problem of daily missiles from Gaza into Israel rather than negotiating to donate more land to the Palestinians, which they will utilize for more launching of missiles. Eight years of Oslo proved that the Palestinians are not partners for peace. The concept of unilateral withdrawal also has proved to be a failed policy.

Israel must hunker down and clearly tell the Palestinians that if they want to have a state, their conduct must satisfy Israel that they deserve to have a state. Thus far, there has not been one iota of change in the Palestinian mind-set that Israel is part of Palestine.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 5)



law changed even if he doesn't *have* to?

*Yitzchak Begelman
New York, NY*

Differing Perspectives

On the one hand, Zionist Organization of America president Morton Klein says the Annapolis conference will fail because the Palestinians don't really want peace ("Blame the Palestinians for Annapolis's Certain Failure," op-ed, Nov. 2).

On the other hand, in the course of his article he claims that most Israelis are against any significant compromises on land being turned over to the Palestinians. If true, couldn't *that* also be a stumbling block to success at Annapolis?

*Gail Sommers
(Via E-Mail)*

Chief Rabbinate And Conversions

Reader Stuart Kaminer's question last week has a simple answer. He asked in his letter why an independent American rabbinic group would invite an Israeli chief rabbi to inspect its conversion system.

Well, if the Rabbinical Council of America wants its conversions to be recognized in Israel it has to satisfy the standards set by the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, which has jurisdiction over conversions.

Also, the Israeli Chief Rabbinate's imprimatur

would go a long way toward dispelling some of the criticism voiced over the years concerning the RCA's allegedly lax supervision of some of its rabbis who perform questionable conversions.

*Lawrence Herman
(Via E-Mail)*

Palestinian Pacification

German Foreign Minister Steinmeir is in the process of presenting an EU plan for boosting the U.S.-led Mideast peace efforts.

I do not know what the plan consists of. I would, however, like Mr. Steinmeir to answer one simple question: If the U.S. and its allies had signed a peace treaty with Germany after World War II similar to the peace treaty at Versailles after World War I (without the long occupation that changed the German psyche and mindset) would Germany be the partner in the EU which it is today?

The pacification Germany underwent after World War II produced an extremely different thought process among the vast majority of Germans. A similar type of pacification must take place in the Palestinian-controlled areas.

Can any reasonably objective observer conclude that a Palestinian signature on any document would have any validity with Hamas,

Islamic Party of God, Al Aksa Brigades, and all the other terrorist organizations still operating in the Palestinian-controlled areas?

With jihad against Jews and Israel taught in schools beginning with kindergarten, and with mullahs preaching holy war from the pulpit and on TV, can anyone really think that giving up land will excise from the Palestinian mind the desire to eliminate the island of Israel from the Muslim sea?

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

Unbroken Chain

Re "Sweet Home Savannah" (monthly Contemporary Jewish Kehilla feature, Oct. 26):

The *sixth* generation of the Garfunkel family is growing up in Savannah, Georgia, as *shomer Shabbos* Jews. Benjamin Garfunkel was in Savannah in 1870. His son Charles, born in 1872, was chief of Savannah's police force. One of Charles's sons, Benjamin, was the mayor pro-tem of Savannah. Three of Benny's sons reside in Savannah with their children and grandchildren.

A family that came to Savannah in 1870 as Orthodox Jews successfully maintained the tradition. And there are many other descendants of Benjamin Garfunkel living in Baltimore, New York, and Israel who are observant Jews.

*Joseph Adler
Woodmere, NY*

Shmitta Solution

With all the controversy surrounding the

Imans must condemn hate talk

The first page of the Nov. 18 edition of the *Shiny Sheet* contained an article by David Rogers about Yoni Komorov, who attended a summit of imans and rabbis in New York City. Mr. Komorov spoke at the New Synagogue on Nov. 17 and told the congregation what he learned about Jewish-Islamic relations in the United States.

I did not hear his speech in which he acknowledged that both religions had a great deal of work to do in order to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I do have some suggestions which Mr. Komorov should convey to the imans. When an iman delivers a vicious Friday sermon or when an Arab leader spews hatred toward the West, Christians or Jews, moderate imans should immediately condemn such venomous utterances.

For example, acting Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Sheik Ahmad Bahr delivered an April 13 sermon in which he disgorged many odious declarations such as "Oh Allah, vanquish the Jews and their supporters; vanquish the Ameri-

More letters, Page A11

cans and their supporters. Oh Allah . . . kill them all down to the last one."

There was no word of condemnation from an iman or from an Arab leader for these despicable words or for other parts of this hate-filled sermon.

There have been myriad other sermons and speeches of this nature that have never been denounced by any imans or any Arab leaders.

One more suggestion that Mr. Komorov should convey to the imans is: Please issue a fatwa stating that suicide bombing should be excised from the Arab psyche.

Meetings between moderate Arabs, Christians and Jews are extremely beneficial; however, there will never be the semblance of reconciliation until the moderates vociferously respond to the purveyors of hate immediately after each diatribe.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

W S C THE PALM BEACH POST • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008 23A⁺

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hamas a terrorist group, not a partner for peace

The Post's Feb. 2 editorial, "Another ineffective war won't bring Israel peace," demonstrates a lack of understanding of Israel's predicament. First, in its analysis of the Winograd Commission's report, *The Post* missed an opportunity to commend Israel for its self-examination. Just like here in the United States, where our democracy allows for free expression and critique of our government, the Israeli democracy is brutally honest with itself about its own flaws; I hope to live to see the day when its Arab neighbors can do the same.

Furthermore, *The Post* was quick to criticize Israel for its policy of not negotiating with Hamas, a known terrorist organization that incites hatred and carries out terrorist attacks. Israel is right not to negotiate with Hamas, and in fact, Hamas is one of the main impediments to negotiations, undermining the discussions that are under way between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority.

I support efforts to advance peace in such an unstable and violent region, and I believe that we must leave avenues open to hold formal or informal discussions with our adversaries. However, Hamas is not a partner for peace. It is up to Israel to determine its

national security needs, and we cannot ask Israel to negotiate with a group whose sole mission is Israel's destruction.

U.S. REP. RON KLEIN,
D-Boca Raton
Washington, D.C.

Give a Hamas a deadline, not a negotiation

The Feb. 2 editorial, "Another ineffective war won't bring Israel peace," ended with "Polls show that more Israelis favor negotiations with Hamas to end the attacks, not an ultimately futile military response. ..."

There actually are two proposals in the language used by the writer: One states that "more Israelis favor negotiations with Hamas," and the other states that "Israelis do not want an ultimately futile military response." If a poll were taken with each proposal listed separately, most Israelis would vote against each one.

No Israeli government can or should negotiate with Hamas, which unequivocally states that it will destroy Israel. On the contrary, Israel must set a date with an explicit warning that if one missile is launched against Israel after that date, Israel will counter-attack with all of its strength.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach



**Published by The Freeman Center
The Maccabean Online
Political Analysis and Commentary
on Israeli and Jewish Affairs**

"For Zion's sake I shall not hold my peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I shall not rest."

**FREEMAN CENTER BROADCAST- April 7, 2008
LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM FREEMAN BOARD MEMBER**

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Member of the Board of Directors
Freeman Center For Strategic Studies
FAX# (561) 533-5118

April 7, 2008

Dear Editor:

The March 28th edition of the Saudi daily newspaper Al Watan contained an editorial which stated that Arab-Israeli peace is possible. The "objectivity" of the editorial is clearly enunciated by two of the editorial statements:

1. "Any agreement must include the return of all occupied Arab lands to their owners ..."

The PLO's 1964 Charter, the 1968 revised PLO Charter, and the 1964 Fatah Constitution clearly articulate the Arab definition of "occupied Arab lands." The clauses unequivocally state that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void. Resistance and armed conflict are necessary to end the Zionist occupation. The 1964 Charter and the Fatah Constitution were created three years before the 1967 war. The 1968 PLO Charter was a restatement of the 1964 Charter with the elimination of the clause referring to Jordan and Egypt. The 1968 PLO Charter and the 1964 Fatah Constitution are still in effect.

2. "... thus, the Arab governments should re-examine their calculations, calmly . . . in order to shed light on the Arabs' true enemy and force Israel to stop its aggression. This aggression has been continuing for 60 years . . . "

The new state of Israel was attacked by Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon almost immediately after it was established but the UN in 1948. When the Arabs learned that they were unable to destroy Israel, they agreed to an armistice which lasted until the 1967 war. During the 19 years of "armistice," Syria continually shelled Israel from the Golan Heights and there were continuous Arab acts of terrorism against Israel.

I assume that the combined Arab attacks in 1948 and the continuing acts of Arab terrorism are what the editorial writer had in mind when he referred to 60 years of Israeli aggression.

The editorial really states the Arab position that Israel has been the aggressor since the Arab attack in 1948 and that Israel must return the occupied lands which means Israel's occupation of Israel.

In order to rebut my thesis, I challenge Abbas and Haniyeh to clearly define "occupied Arab lands" and to annul in Arabic and English the PLO 1968 Charter and the 1964 Fatah Constitution.

Sincerely yours,
William K. Langfan

Returning to 1967 borders won't mean peace for Israel

Many well-meaning people are promoting the specious theory that if Israel ends its "occupation" and returns to the 1967 borders, Israel and the Palestinians will sign a peace agreement similar to the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. Egypt's demand had one simple dimension: Israel must return every inch of land seized in the 1967 war. The most powerful entity among the Palestinians is Hamas, whose leaders have overtly declared that they will destroy Israel. There is not one shred of evidence that Israel's return to 1967 borders would result in Palestinian-Israeli peace. On the contrary, it would broaden the area of missile attacks.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

THE JEWISH PRESS

America's Largest Independent Jewish Weekly

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Friday, June 20, 2008 • 24 Sivan 5768

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'67 Borders Not The Answer

Many well-meaning individuals are promoting the specious theory that if Israel only ended its "occupation" and return to the 1967 borders, Israelis and Palestinians at last would live in peace.

But how can anyone think an Israeli return to 1967 borders is the answer when the 1964 PLO charter and the 1964 Fatah constitution both declare that the very establishment of Israel was illegal and that armed resistance is to be utilized to end the Zionist occupation of Arab lands?

The only attempt by the Palestinians to change the 1968 charter, which had modified the original 1964 charter, was a charade performed by the Palestine National Congress when it voted to annul certain onerous clauses. But those alleged annulments were never executed. The charter and the constitution are still in effect. The content of these documents is illustrative of the Palestinian mindset – namely, that Israeli "occupation" means far more than 1967 borders – it means Zionist control of *any* land in Palestine.

Further, the most powerful entity among the Palestinians is Hamas, whose leaders have publicly declared their goal

of destroying Israel.

In short, there is not one shred of evidence that Israel's return to the 1967 borders would result in Palestinian-Israeli peace. On the contrary, it would broaden the area of missile attacks.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 5)



Youth in Middle East should emulate West Palm teen

The July 8 *Post* contained an article about Syed Balkhi (“How does Syed Balkhi do it? He’s just wired that way”), who at age 11 arrived in West Palm Beach with his family from Pakistan. He is now a 17-year-old college student who owns a Web-designing firm and has a Webmaster blog. He sold his first Web site for \$20,000.

If youngsters in the West Bank, Gaza, South Lebanon, Iraq and other countries would spend their time learning how to create wealth as Syed had done, the lives of the people in those areas would improve significantly and real peace would finally be on the horizon.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defining 'peace'

Israel and Syria are engaged in indirect "peace" negotiations.

The word "peace" is too frequently used promiscuously. Peace should be a concept with the absolute intention of the prospective signatories to adhere to norms of behavior.

Can anyone point to one Syrian act or word that would indicate Syria has done or will do anything resembling peace in exchange for the Golan?

Israel should inform Syria that the following steps must be effected before direct negotiations are to commence:

Syria must unequivocally sever its relationship with Hezbollah, Hamas and any other terrorist entity, and Syria must announce in Arabic to the world that it has done so.

Syria must renounce any military relationship with Iran.

Syria and Israel will immediately exchange ambassadors and establish normal relations similar to the interchange among countries in Europe.

Syria must agree that not one military item nor one soldier can ever be placed in the Golan.

Vitriol toward Israel or Jews must cease.

The Syrian people must agree by at least a 75 percent majority to all of the above.

When Israel is satisfied that these suggestions have been met, Israel and Syria will then have direct negotiations pertaining to a peace treaty and the return of the Golan to Syria.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
PALM BEACH



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Abbas' empty talk of peace

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas talks peace with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Condoleezza Rice. However, he recently delivered a speech in Lebanon in which he declared that the Palestinian refugees must return to Palestine (Israel).

Anyone who follows the events of the Middle East knows that Israel cannot and will not allow the refugees, who now consist of second and third generations, to inundate Israel and destroy the Jewish state. Abbas' empty words of peace are also accentuated by his failure to attempt to annul the 1964 Fatah Constitution and the 1968 PLO-amended charter, both of which declare that the establishments of the state of Israel is void and that armed resistance must be sustained until the Zionist entity is destroyed.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Continued from p.5

merous pro-Arab articles and videos on its web page there are a relative few that can be deemed neutral or pro-Israel.

*Aaron Kinsberg
Brooklyn, NY*

Simple Choice

This should be a no-brainer: Whom do you support? Terrorists or those combating terrorism? Civilization or those trying to destroy civilization? Tyrants or those who oppose tyranny? Violent criminals or those who enforce the law?

The vast majority of people, given a choice, would pick the good guys over the bad guys.

Except, of course, when it comes to Israel and the Jews. The jihadists and their friends in the media want you to believe that the terrorist/murderers – who for years have fired thousands of missiles, rockets and mortars at homes, schools and businesses in order to inflict as much damage and kill as many innocent men, women and children as possible – are the good guys. And they want you to believe that those protecting their democratic country from annihilation and their citizens from extermination are the bad guys.

Gaza is brutally ruled by a terrorist gangster enterprise called Hamas that has declared as its main goal the destruction of Israel. To that end Hamas has illegally amassed a huge arsenal of weapons and is waging a daily war of hate and violence against Israel. No sane, responsible nation would tolerate these daily assaults on its people and its land.

After so many years of restraint, it's about time Israel defended itself. Let Israel defeat Hamas and put an end to its crimes. Allow the citizens of southern Israel and the Arab settlers of Gaza to live in peace.

*Douglas Miller
Franklin, MI*

It's All On Paper

There are some Palestinian documents and an Israeli law that should be analyzed before anyone conveys an opinion pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: the

Hamas 1988 charter, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) 1964 charter (amended in 1968), the 1964 Fatah constitution and the 1988 Israeli anti-racism law.

The PLO charter and the Fatah constitution were created three years before the 1967 war. The charter and the constitution declared that the establishment of Israel was illegal and void, and that armed conflict must be utilized in order to eliminate the Zionist entity.

The Hamas charter declares that "Israel exists and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it"; "Hamas strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine"; and "There is no solution to the Palestinian question except through Jihad."

The 1998 Israeli law prevents a political party from running for seats in the Knesset if it promotes racism (which in Israel means anti-Arab racism).

The Fatah constitution and the Hamas charter have never been modified or annulled. There was an attempt in December 1998 to modify the PLO charter, but as of January 2009 there has not been any official change.

There are at this moment three official documents from the three Palestinian parties that clearly call for the elimination of Israel. Any Palestinian spokesman who refers to peace in exchange for Israel's return to its 1967 borders is merely spouting propaganda with no substance in fact.

Contrasting the content of the three Palestinian documents which call for the elimination of Israel with the 1988 Israeli anti-racism law, one can see which side really wants peace.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

Outrageous Prices

We are senior citizens living in South Florida. Every kosher butcher charges about \$ 2.59 per pound for chicken legs. This is outrageous. *Treif* chicken legs cost about a third of this amount.

Because of the problems in Iowa, we are being held captive

New Torah brings joy



Alan and Esther Williams help scribe Jaacov Goldman of Israel include a final letter in the new sefer Torah Sunday at the Palm Beach Synagogue. About 200 attended the dedication, which allowed individuals to write in the Torah donated by William Langfan in memory of his parents, Max and Mary Langfan. A procession was accompanied by dancing.

*Daily News Photo
by Jeffrey Langlois*



Daled Amos

What I write only has to go so far...

Friday, July 31, 2009

Some Questions For J Street, And Their Friends

The following was written by William K. Langfan, a member of the Board of Directors of the [Freeman Center For Stratetgic Studies](#)

JULY 27, 2009

Dear Editor:

J Street and 11 other groups including Americans for Peace Now, the Israeli Policy Forum, the New Israel Fund, et al are scheduled to have a conference in Washington on October 25-28, 2009, to promote Israeli/Palestinian peace.

I would like leaders from any of these well-meaning organizations to answer the following questions and interrogatories:

1. Admit or deny that Hamas leaders have repeatedly declared before and after their victory in the last Palestinian election, that they will destroy Israel?
2. Admit or deny that PLO and Fatah leaders have stated on many occasions that any agreements with Israel are phases towards their ultimate goal which is the liberation of Palestine.
- 3a. Admit or deny that the Palestinian National Council (PNC) voted in 1974 that the Palestinian leadership will destroy Israel in phases.
- 3b. Admit or deny that Arafat on September 1, 1993, reaffirmed that the Oslo accords are an intricate part of the 1974 phased plan.
- 3c. Admit or deny that PA President and Chairman of Fatah declared on October 3, 2006 that "It is not required of Hamas, or of Fatah, or the Popular Front to recognize Israel".
- 3d. Admit or deny that Kifah Radayeh, a senior Fatah official head of Fatah Jerusalem Charter, declared on PA TV in July 2009, "It has been said that we are negotiating for peace, but peace has never been a goal of Fatah, the goal is Palestine ... armed struggle has never been ruled out ...".
- 3e. Admit or deny that no leader of Fatah or the Palestinian Authority, or the PLO has disavowed Kifa Radayeh's July 2009 declaration.
- 4a. Admit or deny that President Abbas is one of the founders of Fatah, whose 1964 constitution declares that the establishment of Israel is illegal, and calls for armed conflict to end the occupation of Palestine (this was three years before the 1967 war, when Israel took control of the west Bank).
- 4b. Admit or deny that any member of Fatah has ever disowned any article of the Fatah Constitution.
- 4c. Admit or deny that the 1964 PLO Charter (amended in 1968) contains virtually the same language as the Fatah 1964 Constitution.
- 4d. Admit or deny that any modification of the Charter has ever occurred, since the December 1998 Palestinian National Council vote to accept the content of Arafat's letter to then President Clinton, which alleged that certain charter articles were eliminated or modified.

5. What facts have occurred which would indicate to an objective observer that Palestinian leader who declared in 1964, three years before Israel had the West Bank, that the establishment of Israel was illegal and that armed conflict was necessary to liberate Palestine, are now willing to effect peace with Israel if Israel were to return to pre-1967 borders.

6. Do your leaders want Jerusalem to be divided?

7. The Palestinian leadership has unequivocally stated that there can be no peace with Israel unless the Palestine's refugees are returned to Israel.



How do the leaders of your organization expect Israel and the Palestinians to resolve this issue?

Respectfully submitted,
William K. Langfan

I guess all we can do now is sit back and wait for their answers--but don't hold your breath...

Technorati Tag: [William K. Langfan](#) and [J Street](#) and [Americans for Peace Now](#) and [Israeli Policy Forum](#) and [New Israel Fund](#).

Settlements a distraction ploy

The Israeli settlement issue is a red herring, a rallying point for people who do not want to pay attention to the facts of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. There were no Israeli settlements in the West Bank in 1948, when all the surrounding Arab states attacked while the UN established Israel. There were no Israeli settlements from the 1949 Arab/Israeli armistice until the 1967 war, when Israel was attacked by a variety of terrorists. There were no Israeli settlements in 1964, when the PLO created its charter, declaring that the establishment of Israel was illegal and that armed conflict was necessary to eliminate the Zionist entity.

Now we are asked to believe that the settlements and Israel's existence in the West Bank are the obstacles to peace. What facts other than empty Arab rhetoric have emanated from the Palestinian leaders and Arab countries that would indicate to an objective observer that there has been a change in the Arab mind-set that Israel does not belong in this Arab world?

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

Drug firms spend too much on advertising

The pharmaceutical industry is out of control with its advertising. On TV, the commercial is always suggesting that you “ask your doctor if this is right for you.”

It would be more prudent for the drug industry to lower prices or spend more money on developing drugs than on a constant barrage of advertising. I would also imagine the industry spends a great deal courting doctors to prescribe one or another company’s medicines.

It’s no wonder prescriptions are so expensive. We’re paying for their advertising.

MARK J. BEYER
Wellington

Hamas has no interest in peace with Israel

Some so-called experts are promoting the concept that Israel should negotiate with Hamas. How can anyone reasonably conclude that Israel could or should trust a unity government containing Hamas?

Hamas’ constitution calls for the destruction of Israel. It received a plurality of Palestinian votes with the destruction of Israel as one of its main planks. Hamas canceled its agreement with Fatah by destroying Fatah

representatives in Gaza. Hamas was responsible for tunneling into Israel and killing and kidnapping Israeli soldiers. Hamas has launched thousands of missiles into Israel. Hamas has smuggled arms from Iran and Syria through tunnels dug from Gaza to Egypt.

The leaders of Hamas have never directly or indirectly indicated that they would want to live in peace with Israel. Anyone who promulgates the theory that Israel should negotiate with Hamas in any prospective Palestinian government, must present some facts in order to substantiate a position that defies logic.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Preposition OK to end sentence, headline with

In response to the letter, “Ending headline with preposition gut-turner,” I submit this quotation from *College Handbook of Composition* by Edwin C. Wooley, Franklin W. Scott and Frederick Bracher: “Sentences ending with prepositions are by no means incorrect. A sentence with a preposition at the end is often more empathetic, and more natural, than the stilted sentence with the preposition buried within it.”

SELMA H. TRACHTENBERG
Lake Worth



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By: Our Readers

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

What They *Really* Want

MEMRI, the respected organization that monitors, translates and issues dispatches of important speeches, articles in the Arab press, and TV, reported that Hizbullah Secretary General Nazrallah delivered a speech on September 18 in which he said:

We declare our consistent unalterable principles: First: Historic Palestine from the sea to the river belongs to the people of Palestine and to the whole nation. Second: it is impermissible to give up a grain of soil from the land of Palestine. Third: the Israel entity is illegitimate. Fourth: it is impermissible for anyone to recognize this entity. Fifth: collaboration and normalization with Israel are forbidden sins.

We will never recognize Israel. Israel is an illegal presence ... and must be wiped out of existence.

The 1988 Hamas charter declares these same basic principles of armed resistance until all of Palestine is controlled by Palestinians.

The 1964 PLO charter and the amended 1968 charter declare that the establishment of Israel is illegal and that the boundaries at the time of the British mandate are indivisible.

The 1964 Fatah constitution declares the same language of liberation of Palestine through armed resistance.

The PLO charter and the Fatah constitution formalized the Arab mindset of the liberation of "Palestine" before the 1967 war when Israel took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The Palestinian National Council in 1974 at its 12th session, adopted a political program of a 10-point program of armed struggle to liberate every inch of territory from Israel rule.

Every formal document emanating from Palestinian leaders, and many utterances by Arab leaders before and after 1967, have the same theme of armed resistance and liberation from Israel.

The activities and Hizbullah and Hamas after Israel's unilateral departures from southern Lebanon and Gaza are samples of what Israel can expect if it leaves the West Bank.

William K Langfan
Palm Beach, FL

Letters to the editor

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The "peace process" which is being proposed by the United States, the European Union, and many well-intentioned people, would result in Israel leaving the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In simple terms, Israel would return to her 1967 borders.

Hamas leaders declared in the 1988 charter that they will destroy Israel. Hamas leaders as recently as this year have stated that no deal with Israel will ever be acceptable to Hamas. Hamas controls a significant segment of Palestinian land. Their armed forces easily vanquished Abbas followers in a Gaza showdown. Can anyone present any satisfactory evidentiary facts that Hamas would be satisfied solely with the control of Gaza? Sooner or later there will either be a Hamas collision with Abbas Fatah or they will unite.

If there is a Hamas-Abbas government battle, it is quite probable that Hamas would win. Israel would then be faced with Hamas on borders that would enable Hamas to unleash thousands of missiles into the heart of Israel. If there is a unity government, Hamas would probably be the controlling party with Israel facing the same possible fate as above.

Thus, Israel cannot logically enter into any agreement with the Abbas government which would result in leaving strategic land unless and until the Hamas threat has been eliminated.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

care, these “profits” go to your care, not to Wall Street.

CONNELL J. MAGUIRE
Riviera Beach

No peace without new Palestinian mind-set

Palestinian leaders insist that unless Israel ceases all building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, they will not meet to restart the “peace process.” Israel has agreed to stop for 10 months. Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian leaders are the ones who should take the necessary steps to restart the “peace process” by unequivocally nullifying Palestinian documents that deny Israel’s right to exist and call for armed struggle against Israel.

If Israel meets with Mr. Abbas before these documents have been annulled, charades similar to the 1996 and the 1998 Palestinian National Council charter

annulments will be repeated without any tangible change in the Palestinian mind-set: “liberation” of all of Palestine by armed resistance.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Cheney should visit military wounded

Former Vice President Dick Cheney not only dithered about Afghanistan for seven years but was instrumental in misdirecting our resources to Iraq. A visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center might put a human face on his willful blundering and should motivate him to speak softly and less critically of the current president when it comes to issues of national security.

REV. SEBASTIAN L.
MUCCILLI
Lake Park

Editor’s note: Rev. Muccilli is a former Catholic chaplain with the Veterans Administration.

The Washington Times

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Middle East peace hinges on single definitions

By - *The Washington Times* - Thursday, February 4, 2010

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

It is interesting how the same word or deed causes extremely different reactions from one society to another.

"Peace" to many Palestinians, for example, means "no Israel." Peace to the Israelis means normal relations with citizens of adjacent countries.

"Joy" to many Palestinians means a terrorist has killed Israeli students studying in a library. Joy to the Israelis means living through another day without a terrorist attack.

A "terrorist" to many Palestinians is an Israeli soldier trying to stop a Palestinian from launching a missile into Israel. A terrorist to an Israeli is someone who enters Israel with the intent to murder Israeli civilians.

The death of a young Palestinian son or daughter who has died committing an act of

"martyrdom" by killing Israelis results in many Palestinian mothers' exultations. The death of a son or daughter of an Israeli mother results in extreme grief.

It is only when the same word or deed results in approximately similar reactions that Israelis and the Palestinians will be able to engage in a peace process.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach, Fla.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, FREEMAN CENTER BOARD

Posted Thursday, February 18 @ 21:50:49 EST

By **William K. Langfan**, Member of the Board of Directors
Freeman Center For Strategic Studies
February 18, 2010

The Israeli settlement issue is a red herring rallying point for people who do not want to pay attention to the facts of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

There were no Israeli settlements in the West Bank in 1948, when all the surrounding Arab states attacked when the UN established Israel. There were no Israeli settlements from the 1949 Arab/Israeli armistice until the 1967 war, during which time Israel was attacked by a variety of Palestinian terrorists. There were no Israeli settlements in 1964, when the PLO created its charter, declaring that the establishment of Israel was illegal and that armed conflict was necessary to eliminate the Zionist entity.

Now we are asked to believe that the settlements and Israel's existence in the West Bank are the obstacles to peace. There is no credible evidence that the mind-set to destroy Israel declared by the Palestinian leaders in their Charters, constitution and their speeches before Israel had the West Bank, has changed or would change if Israel were to dismantle the settlements and did leave the West Bank.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Fla.

<http://www.jewishindy.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=11585>

Israel must avoid one-way deals

I read with great interest Alan Sagner's Local Voices letter in the Feb. 14 *Shiny Sheet*.

Mr. Sagner disapproved of Mr. Foxman's criticism of President Obama for not visiting Israel when he delivered his speech in Cairo, Egypt.

Mr. Sagner also objected to Mr. Foxman's criticism of a J Street spokesman's negative response to Sarah Palin's statement that settlements should be allowed to expand.

Mr. Sagner also stated that J Street expresses the views of many American and Israeli Jews.

Mr. Sagner, a stalwart supporter of J Street, and some American Jews and Israelis are entitled to their opinions just as Chamberlain had his views of "Peace in Our Time" after Munich. Those views gave us the disastrous results of Oslo I and Oslo II, the "Wye" agreement and Gaza.

There is not one scintilla of evidence that Israel's divestiture of land has produced one iota of change in the Palestinian leadership's words, deeds or acts, other than empty rhetoric.

The U.S. and allies proved after World War II that a victor in war must remain in control of a country whose people have a warlike mentality until there has been a transformation of mindset. Germany and Japan have become two of our most reliable allies.

Unless the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians can unequivocally convince Israel that they are willing to accept Israel as a neighbor — as France and Germany live side by side with Switzerland, Luxemburg and Monaco — Israel should not repeat the mistakes of Oslo, Wye and Gaza by entering into one-way "road map" negotiations.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Langfan gives three torahs to synagogues 'out of love'

By MICHELE DARGAN
Daily News Staff Writer

When William Langfan received a call from a West Palm Beach synagogue asking to contribute toward the purchase of a new Torah, Langfan decided to pay for the whole thing.

Langfan commissioned a scribe in Israel to write the Torah for Congregation Aitz Chaim.

Not only that, he commissioned two more Torahs — one for the Palm Beach Synagogue and one for Temple Emanu-El — the two island synagogues that he attends. Langfan is a member of all three.

Langfan, of Palm Beach, donated the first Torah to Aitz Chaim two years ago and gave the second to the Palm Beach Synagogue last year.

Sunday will complete the trifecta, as the third

Temple Emanu-El to host dedication ceremony for sacred scroll on Sunday.

Torah will be dedicated at Temple Emanu-El in memory of Langfan's family.

The synagogue will mark the occasion starting with a hot breakfast at 9:15 a.m., followed by Torah dedication activities from 10 a.m. to noon. The dedication activities include a hands-on look at a Torah, a make-your-own-yad (Torah pointer), a chance to write a letter in the new Torah with the scribe's help and the dedication ceremony from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Please see TORAH, Page 3



Rabbi Michael Resnick, left, and William Langfan with the Torah that Langfan had made for Temple Emanu-El in honor of his parents, Max and Mary.

Daily News Photo by Jeffrey Langlois

No Israel-Palestinian talks

Alan Sagner in his letter in the April 18th *Shiny Sheet* offered his opinion that Jews in our community should balance our views with the best interests of the United States. Most Jews and I go one step further than Mr. Sagner. We consider the interests of the United States first and the concerns of Israel secondary. This does not preclude me from adversely criticizing positions or statements pertaining to Israel emanating from the United States or Israel. Our administration is pressing Israel and the Palestinians to enter into immediate negotiations.

A meeting at this time would contain a land for peace agenda similar to the Oslo and Wye agreements. The Oslo and Wye Accords resulted in Israel's divestiture of land for no peace. These two accords illustrated the chicanery of the Palestinian leadership. They received segments of land in exchange for a promise to control terrorism and there has been more terrorism in the years since Oslo and Wye than at any other time in Israel's history.

The Palestinians promised to amend the 1968 Amended 1964 Covenant in 1996 and 1998 when the Palestinian National Council voted to allegedly amend the Charter. However, there has never been one word changed in the Covenant in 11 years since the last PNC vote. The Covenant declares the establishment of Israel illegal and void, and that armed resistance must be used until Israel is destroyed.

There is no logical reason to sign any agreements with the Abbas-led entity because Hamas, which has openly declared that it will destroy Israel, would in all likelihood take advantage of any benefits which Israel would convey by taking control of the Abbas entity as it did in Gaza.

Space does not permit a continuation of the many other reasons for not meeting with the Palestinians.

WILLIAM LANGFAN
Palm Beach

HOT TOPIC: ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS AND THE U.S.

Mideast peace pacts only invited Palestinian attacks against Israel

I believe it is wrong for the United States to press Israel and the Palestinians to enter into immediate negotiations.

A meeting would contain a land-for-peace agenda similar to the Oslo (1993) and Wye (1998) agreements. Those accords resulted in Israel's divestiture of land for no peace. These two accords illustrated the chicanery of the Palestinian leadership. They received segments of land in exchange for a promise to control terrorism. There has been more terrorism in the years since Oslo and Wye than

'There has been more terrorism in the years since Oslo and Wye than at any other time in Israel's history.'

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
 Palm Beach

at any other time in Israel's history. Israel found it necessary to build a fence and to institute many additional checkpoints in order to limit these terrorist attacks.

The Palestinians promised to amend the 1968 Amended 1964 Covenant in 1996 and 1998 when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) voted to allegedly amend the

charter. However, there has never been one word changed in 11 years since the last PNC vote. The covenant declares that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void and that armed resistance must be utilized until Israel is destroyed.

Israel's unilateral departure from Gaza resulted in thousands of missiles being fired into Israel by Hamas. There is no logical reason to sign any agreements with the Mahmoud Abbas-led entity because Hamas, which has openly declared that it wants to destroy Israel, in all likelihood would take advantage of any benefits that Israel would convey, by taking control of the Abbas entity, as happened in Gaza.

If each Israeli departure from areas under its control has resulted in damage to its security, why should Israel attend another so-called peace conference with an agenda calling for further withdrawals in exchange for an elusive peace?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
 Palm Beach



Illustration by BARRIE MAGUIRE

much of the American Jewish community. In seeking peace, the White House must work creatively with the Jewish community. President Obama should also work with the Arab and Muslim American communities. Would the Jewish-American community ever consider cooperating with the Arab- and Muslim American communities (and vice versa) to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict? So far, the incentives on both sides have not been strong enough for such cooperation. But the three diasporas may have to work together, sooner rather than later.

Could the Arab and Muslim communities extend the hand of reconciliation to the American Jewish community? This shift requires formidable moral and political courage. Jews need to be assured that Israel has a right to exist and be safe in the Middle East. Arabs could acknowledge that Israel has great potential in contributing to the development of the region.

'Would the Jewish-American community

Arabs often pose a rhetorical

No comparison to 9-11

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu went off the deep end in declaring that Israel's defensive act in trying to prevent boats from piercing her blockade of Gaza was Turkey's 9-11.

It is the height of hypocrisy to compare provocatively loaded boats from delivering uninspected products by allegedly peaceful activists to an enemy that has been engaged in war against Israel, or to innocent passengers flying on planes and people sitting in their offices who are murdered by hijackers.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

Gaza is not a prison camp



Cameron

British Prime Minister David Cameron declared in Turkey on July 27 that Gaza must not be allowed to remain a prison camp. Mr. Cameron, I have a question for you: If an entity called "Hamascot" controlled a segment of Scotland with a constitution calling for the destruc-

tion of England, launched thousands of missiles into England, dug tunnels into England used to kill and capture British soldiers, and was receiving a continuous supply of arms from Iran and Syria, would you refer to a British blockaded "Hamascot" as a prison camp?

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi said he's seen a prevalent anti-Israel sentiment in United States

From Page 1

porters of Israel — were there. I waited until I was an adult to go. I want to connect these kids to it so that they will get involved early and experience that passionate support for Israel."

Scheiner said he's seen a prevalent anti-Israel sentiment in the United States in recent years, particularly in the media. As an example, Scheiner points to former President Jimmy Carter's book, *Peace Not Apartheid*, where Scheiner takes exception to Carter's referencing Israel as an apartheid state.

"Israel is always eager to make peace and always making sacrifices to work out a peaceful agreement with its neighbors and yet Israel is always blamed about making peace in the region," Scheiner said.



Rabbi Scheiner

'I want to connect these kids to it so that they will get involved early and experience that passionate support for Israel.'

"There have been so many attempts by Israel to make peace with its neighbors and yet the world blames Israel for the conditions there.

"It's important to engage young people in understanding the issues regarding Israel," Scheiner said. "We have a responsibility to advocate for Israel and to shed light on the misinformation in the media and the anti-Semitic statements that are made. The young people will go off to college and be challenged and it's important they have the truth in representing Israel's side of the story."

Scheiner said he approached congregant William Langfan with the idea for the program, and Langfan decided to sponsor it.

"Based upon my conver-

sations and observations, I've found there is a lack of knowledge of the facts of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and a lack of knowledge on what each party has and has not done," Langfan said.

"I feel that the students should be well-armed verbally to respond when these issues arise. If and when they encounter problems regarding alleged facts, they will use actual facts rather than the emotion. Unfortunately, it's not only the students who don't know the actual facts, but many adults don't know the facts as well."

Langfan said he's particularly sensitive to anti-Israel sentiment because he served in the U.S. Army during World War II and helped liberate victims of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

"I saw the dead bodies on the carts," Langfan said. "There were live people there, too, and I had many conversations with them about the experiences they went through. I had relatives who perished in Eu-

rope. That left a very deep impression on me. It made me super-sensitive to the issue of Jewish safety.

— mdargan
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EXPERT



The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Opinion

Letters: Israel the only shining light in horrible region

By Letters to the Editor for Tuesday, Feb. 22

Posted Feb 21, 2011 at 12:01 AM

Updated Feb 21, 2011 at 11:47 PM

Criticism of Israel ignores Palestinians' acts of terror

A letter-writer complained that “ingrate” Israel exhibited disrespect toward the United States for announcing the construction of new housing in East Jerusalem while Vice President Joe Biden was visiting Israel. I wonder if the writer ever displayed her feelings toward the Palestinians who jumped with joy in the street after Sept. 11, while Israelis mourned as we did.

Has she ever complained about the creation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization charter to destroy Israel three years before Israel took control of East Jerusalem from Jordan? Has she ever complained about suicide Palestinian bombers killing civilians in buses and coffee shops? Has she ever complained about Hamas and Hezbollah launching thousands of missiles into Israel?

Everyone has the right to offer his or her opinion on any subject; however, criticism should be evenhanded.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

The Miami Herald

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Message to Hamas

Some well-meaning people are putting forward the concept of “measured response” in suggesting how Israel should react to missiles and mortars from Gaza. I would not suggest blanket bombing, however, Israel should respond with more than sufficient force to compel Hamas to realize that it is too costly to launch missiles against Israel.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/28/2138708/kendall-trauma-center-needed.html#IJ1W2O500>

Israel correct to respond with more than 'measured response'

"Measured response" is the concept being promulgated by some well-meaning people pertaining to how Israel should react to missiles and mortars from Gaza.

I would not suggest blanket bombing, which we utilized against Germany in World War II. However, I believe that Israel should respond with more than sufficient force to compel Hamas to realize that it is too costly to launch missiles against Israel.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

The Washington Times

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: If struck, Israel shouldn't hesitate to retaliate

By - *The Washington Times* - Thursday, April 14, 2011

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

Hamas and Hezbollah are being supplied by Iran with money and arms, and there are reliable reports that missiles and missile launchers are being stored in civilian areas in Gaza and southern Lebanon

("Directing the winds of change toward Iran," Commentary, Tuesday).

Israel should not wait until these missiles are launched. The country should issue an immediate statement that in the event missiles are launched, the civilians in those areas should seek other shelter because Israel will level everything in the launching areas.

In previous encounters, Hamas and Hezbollah have used civilians as human shields. The civilians who are in areas that might become combat zones should also seek alternative shelters in advance.

Israel should politely but immediately inform the United Nations of the Hamas and Hezbollah installations and should publicly state that the responsibility for civilian casualties will rest on the shoulders of those who launch the missiles - not on the responding party.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach, Fla.

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LETTERS

Wexler plan to restore Israel's '67 borders flawed

Former Congressman [Robert] Wexler's April 11 speech at the Forum Club was excellently reviewed by Michele Dargan's article in the April 12 *Shiny Sheet*. Mr. Wexler's plan is to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict with Israel's return to her 1967 borders.

Is Mr. Wexler aware of the fact that Israel was within her 1967 borders when the PLO with its charter was created in 1964? This charter declared that the establishment of Israel was illegal and void, and that armed resistance was to be used until Palestine was liberated; i.e. Israel was eliminated. This charter was amended in 1968 after the 1967 war with no change in the declaration to destroy Israel.

The Palestinian leadership has resorted to a cascade of chicanery during the "peace talks" from 1993 through 1998, to bamboozle the world into believing that the onerous clauses of the charter have been an-



File photo by Meghan McCarthy

Former Congressman Robert Wexler, president of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, speaks to the Forum Club on Monday.

nulled.

Space does not permit me to prove point by point how the Palestinian leadership deceived the world; however, I can unequivocally state that not one word of the 1968 amended charter has ever been changed, and that no new or modified charter

has ever surfaced.

Can Mr. Wexler present any facts that would convince an objective-minded person that there has been a change of mind-set in the Palestinian leadership declarations and utterances to destroy Israel?

The facts are that an annual average of 29 Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinian terrorists in the no-peace years from 1949 through 1998. The Palestinian leaders raised their arms confirming peace with Israel on Dec. 14, 1998. There were 108 average annual Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorism from Jan. 1, 1999, through Dec. 31, 2009.

I am prepared to debate Mr. Wexler in a public forum at any time pertaining to his 1967 borders plan or any other aspect of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

WILLIAM LANGFAN
Palm Beach

FOCUS ON FAITH

Lighting the torch in memory

Buchenwald liberator moved by March of the Living and role as torch lighter at the ceremony.

It was chilling for the Holocaust liberator to be at the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, but also an honor to light a commemorative torch Monday at the 20th annual March in Poland.

Palm Beach Synagogue member **William K. Langfan** lighted one of the six torches in memory of the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and in honor of those who resisted Nazi tyranny.

"When I used the torch to light this candle, I felt in my heart and mind that I was lighting a Yahrzeit candle for 6 million people," said Langfan, who every year lights a Yahrzeit candle in memory of eight members of his family and will now add this day as well.

Now 89, Langfan joined about 7,000 people in walking the two miles from Auschwitz to Birkenau. Marchers waved flags and placed candles and memorials on the railway tracks that once took Jews in cattle trucks to the center of the death camp.

The March commemorates Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Among those watching the march in Palm Beach were members of Palm Beach Synagogue, who viewed a live broadcast from Auschwitz of the Yom Hashoah program.

"The experience, which touched me most, was the Bar Mitzvah of someone who was in the prison when he was 13 years old," Langfan said. The man is now 78.

Langfan was referring to Oscar winner Branko Lustig, who has production credits for *Schindler's List*, *Gladiator* and *Black Hawk Down*. Lustig spent years as a Croatian Jew



William K. Langfan lights a torch at the 20th annual March of the Living Monday in Auschwitz, Poland, in memory of the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. His Bar Mitzvah took place outside the building at Auschwitz where he was once a prisoner, Langfan said.

"I could not put into words how I felt about this special ceremony," said Langfan of the Bar Mitzvah and Lustig's articulate speech. "Everyone will be talking about that forever," he said.

Langfan's invitation to light the torch came through Rabbi Simcha Cohen of Congregation Aitz Chaim in West Palm Beach. "I was practically jumping for joy when I got that phone call," he said.

His trip to the March of the Living with his children, Robin Hammer, Mark Langfan and Dayna Langfan, was also significant because he was a liberator and because he lost relatives in the death camps.

Langfan was with an anti-aircraft battery of the Third Army Corps when Buchenwald was liberated in April 1945, days after Nazis left the camp.

"I was in disbelief," he said when the group came upon the camp. "I had been hearing things; they

seemed so far-fetched that I couldn't really believe it. When I talked to them (the prisoners) and walked through the camp, I had to shake my head; it could not enter my brain that people could do such things."

On Sunday at noon, Langfan will speak to teenagers at Palm Beach Synagogue about how he liberated the camps.

Next year he hopes to again participate in the March of the Living.

Israel Independence Day — The local celebration of Israel's 63rd anniversary will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the waterfront and City Commons in downtown West Palm Beach.

There will be a dance performance by Israel's Re-vital Dance Ensemble at 6:30 p.m., a showcase of 13 area synagogues, children's activities, a marketplace of Jewish and Israeli products, and kosher food for sale. Participants can bring chairs and blankets to the event.

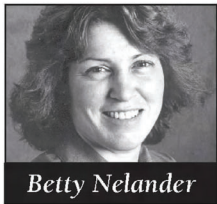
The free celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) is being presented by The Ewa & Dan Abraham Project and the Jewish Community Center of the Greater Palm Beaches. Among the sponsors are local synagogues. For more information, visit JCCOnline.com.

Also on Tuesday: Palm Beach Synagogue will hold a special 8 a.m. service in honor of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, as well as a 9 a.m. breakfast at the synagogue.

Cantor for Shabbat — Palm Beach Synagogue will welcome guest cantor **Yossi Schwarz** for Shabbat from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For the last five years he has been performing in synagogues throughout London.

Secrets to serenity — **Chabad of South Palm Beach** will present the Jewish Learning Institute's "Oasis in Time: The Gift of Shabbat in a 24/7 World." Rabbi **Leibel Stolik** will lead the weekly six-session course, which will take place beginning at noon Tuesday at the Chabad in Plaza del Mar. Each Tuesday session will include a hot lunch. R.S.V.P. to 889-3499.

— bnelander
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

OPINION

LETTERS

PLO Is Less Than Candid About the 1967 Border Issue

June 4, 2011

The PLO, with its onerous charter, was created in 1964 when Israel was within its 1967 borders. The Palestinian charter clearly stated that the establishment of Israel was illegal and void and that armed resistance would be utilized until Palestine was liberated, i.e., Israel was destroyed. The Fatah constitution which also called for the destruction of Israel was published when Israel was within its 1967 borders.

I implore the adherents of the return to 1967 borders to come forward with simple facts to sustain their theory.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Fla.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702303657404576359732118460622>

Country Coach at Palm Beach Central High School.

Adherents of return to '67 borders short on peace facts

The Palestine Liberation Organization was created in 1964 when Israel was within its 1967 borders ("What Obama did to Israel," Charles Krauthammer column, May 29). The PLO charter stated that the establishment of Israel was illegal, and that armed resistance would be utilized until Palestine was liberated; i.e. Israel was destroyed. The Fatah constitution, which also called for the destruction of Israel, was published when Israel was within its 1967 borders.

Has there been a change in Palestinian leadership or mind-set that would mean security for Jews and Israelis? Show it.

Thus, promoters of the demand that Israel must return to its 1967 borders in order to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are obligated to produce facts that clearly demonstrate that there has been a major change in the Palestinian leadership mind-set to destroy Israel. Are they able to show that one word of either charter has ever been modified? Have the Palestinian

textbooks full of hate toward Jews and Israelis ever been changed?

Have the Friday sermons oozing with hatred ever changed? Have the TV, radio and newspapers changed? Do they not still name streets after terrorists who have killed Israeli civilians? Has the verbal thunder of the "return of the refugees" to Israel abated? Would return to 1967 borders change the 1998 Hamas charter to destroy Israel?

I have asked some the questions which are important issues of sincerity of peaceful intention. I implore the adherents of return to 1967 borders to come forward with simple facts to sustain their theory.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

The Washington Times

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Iran is the real 'microbe'

By - *The Washington Times* - Friday, September 2, 2011

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

Iranian dictator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in a recent visit to Syria, said, "The Zionist occupiers are destructive microbes." He needs a basic science-course refresher.

A microbe is defined as an organism that causes disease. I must disagree with Mr. Ahmadinejad and submit that the word microbe would more accurately describe Iran's presence in the world. Iran has been supplying missiles, improvised explosive devices and military equipment to entities throughout the Middle East that have caused many thousands of deaths.

Conversely, Israel has helped people in more than 100 countries in various areas of health and agriculture, and this aid has enabled numerous people to continue living who would have perished without Israel's aid.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach, Fla.

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Give would-be foes pause

Prime Minister Netanyahu has been listening to the wrong voices when he stated after the recent terrorist attacks in southern Israel that Israel's response would be "commensurate with the breach of its sovereignty." Israel's response when it establishes who the instigators were should be so massive that anyone contemplating a future attack against Israel would be forced to think many times before launching it.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

“Israel” for “I” and “Palestinians” for “iguanas,” then try “Border Patrol” for “I” and “illegal immigrants” for “iguanas.” Like Israel and the Southern border states, Goldstein’s single-minded concern is to protect *his* property.

Mr. Goldstein is correct when he states that fighting a war “requires time, energy, wits and constant attention.” Welcome to the tea party, Steve.

Rick Haynes, Fort Lauderdale

Pro-life should mean all life

You have the right to believe in the death penalty, to care not if people die due to lack of health insurance and to be for a gun-toting society. But then how do you spout the position of pro-life? That’s an oxymoron. Maybe I need to have the meaning of pro-life clarified for me. I guess it just applies under certain circumstances.

Estelle Warner, Boynton Beach

Obama forgetting promises

I loved Obama, but now I don’t know what’s going on with him. He said he’d help with climate change and pollution, and he is going in the other direction. Wake up, Obama, and remember who you are, or were.

Ruth Glaser, Hollywood

Palestinians don’t want peace with enemy Israel

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in his recent speech clearly enunciated what he and the Palestinian leadership mean by “occupation.”

He stated, “What I will take to the UN will be the suffering and concerns of our people that have taken place over 63 years living under the occupation.”

Sixty-three years subtracted from 2011 equals 1948, which is when Israel was created by the United Nations.

When Abbas used the words “63 years of occupation,” he was actually defining the

Palestinian mindset that “occupation” meant Israel’s “occupation” of Israel from 1948 through 1967 plus Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza from 1967 through 2011. This new concept of Israel’s “occupation” is now referred to by Palestinian leaders as Israel’s occupation of the area, which Israel took control of in the 1967 war. However, the Palestinian leadership by every act and every word intends to use this “return to 1967 borders” as its “peaceful” stepping stone to the elimination of Israel.

Furthermore, there are three Palestinian formal documents that call for Israel’s destruction: the Hamas 1988 Constitution, the Fatah Constitution of 1964 and the 1968 amended PLO Charter. There has been an attempt to allegedly amend the 1968 PLO Charter pursuant to Palestinian obligations in the 1995 Oslo II accord. A careful review of events and documents from 1993 through the Dec. 14, 1998, vote by the PNC and the leaders of the Palestinians casts serious doubts about any alleged amendments to the charter. No new charter has ever surfaced. If there ever were a new charter, the Palestinian 2000 intifada violated any alleged attempt to modify it.

There have been 108 average annual Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorists from Jan. 1, 1999, to Dec. 31, 2009, vs. 28 annual average Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorists from Jan. 1, 1949, to Dec. 31, 1998, which further illustrates the “benefit” of peace agreements with the Palestinian leadership.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach



EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mahmoud Abbas attends the 66th UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 21.

Jewish Journal

Letters to the Editor | Published Sep 28, 2011

President Abbas in his recent speech clearly enunciated what he and what the Palestinian leadership mean by “occupation.”

He stated, “What I will take to the UN will be the suffering and concerns of our people that have taken place over 63 years living under the occupation.”

Sixty-three years subtracted from 2011 equals 1948, which is when Israel was created by the United Nations.

When Abbas referred to 63 years of occupation, he was actually defining the Palestinian mind-set that “occupation” meant Israel’s “occupation” of Israel from 1948 through 1967 plus Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza from 1967 through 2011. This new concept of Israel’s “occupation” is now referred to by Palestinian leaders as Israel’s occupation of the area which Israel took control of in the 1967 war; however, the Palestinian leadership, by every act and every word in Arabic, intends to use this “return to 1967 borders” as its “peaceful” stepping stone to the elimination of Israel.

Furthermore, there are at this moment three Palestinian formal documents that call for Israel’s destruction: the Hamas 1988 Constitution, the Fatah Constitution of 1964 and the 1968 amended PLO Charter (Covenant). There has been no attempt to modify the Fatah or Hamas constitutions. There has been an attempt to allegedly amend the 1968 PLO Charter pursuant to Palestinian obligations in the 1995 Oslo II accord. A careful review of events and documents from 1993 through the Dec. 14, 1998, vote by the PNC and the leaders of the Palestinians casts serious doubts about any alleged amendments of the Charter. No new Charter has ever surfaced. If there ever were a new Charter, the Palestinian 2000 intifada violated any attempt to allegedly modify the Charter.

There have been 108 average annual Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorists from Jan. 1, 1999, through Dec. 31, 2009, versus 28 annual average Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorists from Jan. 1, 1949, through Dec. 31, 1998, which further illustrates the “benefit” of peace agreements with the Palestinian leadership.

William K. Langfan
via e-mail

Jewish Journal

Letters to the Editor | Published Oct 19, 2011

Shalit Release Is Too Dangerous

Did Israel ask the relatives of those hundreds of Israelis who were murdered about their feelings and opinions pertaining to the release of their relatives' murderers?

Gilad Shalit is worth more than a thousand Palestinian prisoners. However, is Gilad Shalit worth more than the dozens of Israelis who are likely to be murdered by the very Palestinians who are now to be released in exchange for Shalit? How would you feel if one of these released prisoners subsequently detonated a bomb in a crowded Israeli cafe and your son were one of the dead?

When the Israelis and the Palestinians begin to live in tranquility with each other as the residents of Switzerland, Luxemburg, Monte Carlo, the Netherlands and Belgium live with their larger neighbors, then Palestinian prisoners can be released.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Fla.*

Take Him At His Word

By William K. Langfan

November 1, 2011

Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah Central Council, recently stated on Al Jazeera in Arabic, the following, which was translated into English by MEMRI: “The settlement should be based on the borders of June 4, 1967 (“Arab Media Says What U.S. Media Won’t,” The Edge of Town, Oct. 21). When we say that the settlement should be based upon these borders, President (Abbas) understands, we understand, and everybody knows that the greater goal cannot be accomplished in one go.” “If one says that one wants to wipe Israel out ... Come on, it’s too difficult. It’s not (acceptable) policy to say so. Don’t say these things to the world. Keep it to yourself.”

Zaki’s statements are not wild talking by just one Palestinian leader; it is the mindset of the Palestinian leadership. The Palestinian National Council in its June 9, 1974 Resolution (Clause 2) declared exactly the same concept.

It said: “The Liberation Organization will employ all means, and first and foremost armed struggle, to liberate Palestinian territory and to establish the independent combatant national authority for the people over every part of Palestinian territory that is liberated. This will require further changes being effected in the balance of power in favor of our people and their struggle.”

The Quartet should tell Abbas to express his opinion of Zaki’s statements in Arabic to the Palestinian public.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach, Fla.

<https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/take-him-at-his-word/>

Palm Beach Daily News, Friday, November 11, 2011

LANGFAN

Had heard 'rumblings' about Buchenwald, 'but I had no idea it was as bad as it was'

From Page 1

"We were actually having a good time there," Langfan recalls. "But one day I heard small arms fire. I asked somebody: 'Is there a shooting range around here?' He said no, the Germans have broken through. That was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge."

Langfan was an anti-aircraft man, but some of the worst winter weather on record had planes grounded. Instead, he and other members of his squad were taken up to the fighting and placed as anti-tank gunners. "I was the bazooka man. I had to keep the shells underneath my shirt because I wanted to make sure they weren't going to be frozen. That was the only time I was really scared."

The battle turned after skies cleared and Allied aircraft were able to reassert their superiority. Allied losses included 19,000 American soldiers killed, 47,500 wounded, 23,000 captured or missing; plus 200 British soldiers killed, and 1,200 wounded or missing.

Months later, Langfan and the U.S. Army marched into the Buchenwald concentration camp. They were

stunned.

"I had been hearing rumblings about it," he says, "but I had no idea it was as bad as it was. Looking at them, you had no idea how they could still be alive. I spoke Yiddish and some of them told me how lucky they were to be alive. If we'd come just days later, they would have been dead."

Langfan left the Army, got a law degree and went into the real estate business in New York. He and his partners found success converting apartment buildings into condominiums.

He left the business in 1985 and moved to Miami Beach, coming to Palm Beach two years later.

The debate group Langfan used in 1940 as his vehicle to encourage U.S. involvement in the war — called the Euphratean Debate Society — was scrapped in 1979. But last year, he received a call from a senior at his alma mater, the University of South Carolina, asking him if he'd like to help revive it. He said he did and contributed \$1,000 toward expenses.

The senior, Joel Iliff, is the new president of the society and arranged

a debate earlier this month in which Langfan participated — 70 years after his World War II debates. The topic: Should Israel withdraw to its pre-1967 war borders?

Langfan argued no.

A longtime Palestinian supporter said yes.

"There was a lot of interest in the debate," says Iliff, who is majoring in Greek and Latin classical literature. "It was pretty well attended and in fact the president of the university was there." Langfan, Iliff says, "is remarkably sharp — it's incredible. He certainly knows his stuff and he's very knowledgeable on this topic."

Langfan says he believes he has been consistent through the years, arguing that the United States needs to use its military might to short-circuit aggression wherever it appears around the world. He likes to say there's nothing wrong with handshake diplomacy, but — as was the case in the short-lived pact between Hitler and Stalin — "it depends upon who's shaking whose hand."

He adds: "There are times in history when you have to do something even though it's difficult. There was no way to negotiate with Hitler. He had this idea of conquering the world, and that was that."



Langfan
Assisted former
debate group's
return to campus.

Syria is not peaceful

Syria has killed thousands of its peacefully demonstrating citizens.

Where are the voices of the accusers who were so rapid in alleging Israeli war crimes when Israel entered Gaza in response to thousands of missiles launched from Gaza into Israel?

These now-silent voices are the ones that have been clamoring for Israel to give the Golan to “peaceful” Syria.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

Don't push Israel into talks until foes renounce pledge

The "Quartet" should not attempt to push Israel into negotiating at this time, even though Fatah and Hamas met last week to discuss a unity government. If they succeed in forming one, Israel will not negotiate with an entity that has a partner (Hamas) that calls for the destruction of Israel and has fired thousands of missiles into Israel.

If the unity attempt fails, a Fatah agreement with Israel would have no substantive meaning, because Fatah represents, based on the last election, only a minority segment of the Palestinians. For there to be a commencement of meaningful negotiations, all three formal Palestinian founding documents — the PLO charter (covenant), the Fatah constitution, and the Hamas charter, which call for the destruction of Israel — must be nullified by a two-thirds vote of the Palestinians in a public plebiscite.

The vote should also contain a clause precluding any Palestinian political party from running for the parliament if the party promotes the destruction of another country. Israel bars a political party from running for the Knesset if the party promotes racism. The Kach Party, which advanced the theory of removing all Israeli Arabs from Israel, was barred from running. If and when a vote of this nature is affected, and a Palestinian parliament of this nature is elected, Israelis and Palestinians will meet without the prodding of outside sources.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Palestinians won't be happy with less than all of Israel

The editorial pertaining to Newt Gingrich's "invented Palestinian" concept leads into another segment of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The issue is whether the Palestinians should have a state at this time. Palestinian leaders refused to have a state in 1947-48 when the United Nations voted to partition the area by allocating a segment to the "Palestinians" and a portion to the Jews. They wanted the whole area, which resulted in the 1948 war. They were satisfied to live under the control of Jordan and Egypt after the armistice of 1949. There never was an overt act by the Palestinian leadership demanding that Jordan and Egypt should relinquish control of the West Bank and Gaza. They wanted to liberate only the part of Palestine that happened to be Israel.

Their return this week to the 1967 border issue is the Palestinian "peaceful" steppingstone to accomplish clause two of the Palestinian National Council 1974 Political Programme, which is to gradually eliminate Israel.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

William K. Langfan: Republicans only giving Obama more ammo

January 25, 2012

The prospective Republican presidential candidates are launching missiles at each other which are creating ammunition for President Obama to use in the election.

They should cease and desist all negative comments about their opponents and exclusively present palatable and cogent arguments pertaining to how they will defeat Obama.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/fl-xpm-2012-01-25-sfl-william-k-langfan-republicans-only-giving-obama-more-ammo-20120124-story.html>

Letters To The Editor

By: William K. Langfan

Published: March 28th, 2012

The Lesson From Egypt

The lower Parliament of Egypt unanimously voted that “Egypt will never be the friend or ally of the Zionist entity which we consider the first enemy of Egypt and the Arab nation.”

The Parliament also called upon the government “to revise all its relations and agreements with that enemy” and further declared that Egypt should pull its ambassador from Tel Aviv and immediately end natural gas exports to Israel.

This is not the final word from Egypt. The upper Parliament can refuse to follow the lower Parliament’s vote.

Unfortunately, Israel can only watch and wait to see whether the other shoe will drop to virtually end its “peace” with Egypt. Israel will also have to adjust its defensive and offensive postures pertaining to Egypt.

This vote demonstrates that an agreement with a Muslim country’s secular government can be a worthless document if Islamists take control of the country.

This is an inkling of what could happen to any agreement between Israel and a secular Palestinian entity.

William K. Langfan Palm Beach, FL

<http://www.jewishpress.com/indepth/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-208/2012/03/28/>

The Palm Beach Post

Submissions from Post readers

March 31, 2012

No peace without new Palestinian mind-set

Palestinian leaders insist that unless Israel ceases all building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, they will not meet to restart the “peace process.” Israel has agreed to stop for 10 months. Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian leaders are the ones who should take the necessary steps to restart the “peace process” by unequivocally nullifying Palestinian documents that deny Israel’s right to exist and call for armed struggle against Israel.

If Israel meets with Mr. Abbas before these documents have been annulled, charades similar to the 1996 and the 1998 Palestinian National Council charter annulments will be repeated without any tangible change in the Palestinian mind-set: “liberation” of all of Palestine by armed resistance.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, PALM BEACH

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion-blogs/whatever-courts-let-keep-foster-kids/Ju8kaxICCyO7kGYz3rRg4M/>

Palm Beach Daily News

Opinion

Israel must avoid one-way negotiations with Palestine

Posted Apr 1, 2012 at 12:01 AM

Updated Apr 1, 2012 at 7:34 AM

I read with great interest Alan Sagner's Local Voices letter in the Feb. 14 Shiny Sheet.

Mr. Sagner disapproved of Mr. Foxman's criticism of President Obama for not visiting Israel when he delivered his speech in Cairo, Egypt.

Mr. Sagner also objected to Mr. Foxman's criticism of a J Street spokesman's negative response to Sarah Palin's statement that settlements should be allowed to expand.

Mr. Sagner also stated that J Street expresses the views of many American and Israeli Jews.

Mr. Sagner, a stalwart supporter of J Street, and some American Jews and Israelis are entitled to their opinions just as Chamberlain had his views of "Peace in Our Time" after Munich. Those views gave us the disastrous results of Oslo I and Oslo II, the "Wye" agreement and Gaza.

There is not one scintilla of evidence that Israel's divestiture of land has produced one iota of change in the Palestinian leadership's words, deeds or acts, other than empty rhetoric.

The U.S. and allies proved after World War II that a victor in war must remain in control of a country whose people have a warlike mentality until there has been a transformation of mind-set. Germany and Japan have become two of our most reliable allies.

Unless the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians can unequivocally convince Israel that they are willing to accept Israel as a neighbor — as France and Germany live side by side with Switzerland, Luxemburg and Monaco — Israel should not repeat the mistakes of Oslo, Wye and Gaza by entering into one-way "road map" negotiations.

William K. Langfan

Palm Beach

If Iran gains nuclear arms, Israel's survival at stake

The United States could unhappily live with an atomic Iran. Israel could not exist with an atomic Iran.

Every word which has emanated from the mouths of Ahmadinejad and Khomeini has unequivocally declared that they will destroy Israel.

If Israel unilaterally arrives at a conclusion that the sanctions and other steps taken by the United States and other major nations have had no effect in arresting the Iran development of the bomb, Israel must attack Iran.

There is no doubt that Israel would have a better chance of survival if it were to face a counter-attack from Iran (without the bomb) and its proxies than an attack from Iran (with the bomb) and its proxies.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

The Palm Beach Post

By Post readers

Submissions from Post readers

Posted: Apr 7, 2012

Mideast Peace Pacts Only Invited Palestinian Attacks Against Israel

I believe it is wrong for the United States to press Israel and the Palestinians to enter into immediate negotiations.

A meeting would contain a land-for-peace agenda similar to the Oslo (1993) and Wye (1998) agreements. Those accords resulted in Israel's divestiture of land for no peace. These two accords illustrated the chicanery of the Palestinian leadership. They received segments of land in exchange for a promise to control terrorism. There has been more terrorism in the years since Oslo and Wye than at any other time in Israel's history. Israel found it necessary to build a fence and to institute many additional checkpoints in order to limit these terrorist attacks.

The Palestinians promised to amend the 1968 Amended 1964 Covenant in 1996 and 1998 when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) voted to allegedly amend the charter. However, there has never been one word changed in 11 years since the last PNC vote. The covenant declares that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void and that armed resistance must be utilized until Israel is destroyed.

Israel's unilateral departure from Gaza resulted in thousands of missiles being fired into Israel by Hamas. There is no logical reason to sign any agreements with the Mahmoud Abbas-led entity because Hamas, which has openly declared that it wants to destroy Israel, in all likelihood would take advantage of any benefits that Israel would convey, by taking control of the Abbas entity, as happened in Gaza.

If each Israeli departure from areas under its control has resulted in damage to its security, why should Israel attend another so-called peace conference with an agenda calling for further withdrawals in exchange for an elusive peace?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion-blogs/letters-mideast-peace-pacts-only-invited-palestinian-attacks-against-israel/OCsS9u85P32bWpMwCpYmzM/>

The PLO Charter Amendment That Never Was

They seem to have fooled the world. If you read this, they will not have fooled you anymore.

William K. Langfan, 6/1/2012, "א בסיין תשע"ב, 6/1/2012



Introduction

The "Peace Process" which began with the Declaration of Principles (DOP) in 1993 and continued with the Oslo Accords was actually an Israeli divestiture of land in exchange for promises of peace from the Palestinian leadership.

One of the major and probably the most important Palestinian obligation in the "Peace Process" was a promise to annul the onerous clauses of their formal original 29 clause 1964 Charter (the "Charter") which was amended into a 33 clause charter in 1968 after the 1967 War. [Click here](#) to see relevant clauses.

The importance of the Charter to the Palestinians can not be exaggerated. To the Palestinians, it is virtually their "Junior Koran." These clauses in the Charter, in sum, declared the establishment of Israel illegal and void and called for armed resistance until Palestine was liberated.

It is the opinion of the writer, predicated upon the facts which follow, that not one word of the Charter has ever been changed. Arafat and the subsequent Palestinian leadership instituted a series of steps to indicate that the Charter had been changed; however, there is not one shred of evidence that any change has ever occurred.

Palestinian Charter Amendment Requirements

1. Clause 33 of the Charter as amended in 1968 specifically states that there can be no change to the Charter unless 2/3's of the full membership of the Palestinian National Council and such a vote can only be made in a meeting specially noticed for an amendment change. (See linked [1968 Charter here](#))

Arafat's 1993 Letter to Rabin

2. Arafat wrote a [magnificent letter](#) (click on the words to see it) to PM Rabin in September 1993 days before the signing of the Oslo Accords. In the letter, Arafat stated that the "clauses in the Charter which are contrary to what I have stated in this letter are either no longer operative or will be nullified." Critically, Arafat's 1993 letter ended with the sentence that the "letter will be presented to the PNC (the Palestinian Council) for their formal approval." In other words, all of Arafat's peaceful statements in his 1993 letter were "subject to" the PNC formal approval pursuant to clause 33 of the Charter.

PNC 1996 Vote and Resolution

3. The PNC finally did meet in April 1996 and did vote for a two clause resolution after a speech by the PNC Chairman Zanon. Zanon's speech (click [here](#)) clearly stated that "we have to do something at the lowest possible price-if we amend, it will mean that we have paid a very high price- if we prepare a new charter it will be less challenging- the resolution which we have drafted gives us 6 months until the Palestinian Central Council meets. They can say, we leave it for the National Council. . . ."

4. Clause one of the Resolution states that the PNC decides “amending the Palestinian National Charter and cancelling the Charter’s articles opposing the exchanged letters between the PLO and the Israeli Government on September 9th and 10th, 1993. Clause 2 of the resolution states that a legal committee would be formed to draft a new Charter.

If we combine the Zanon pre-vote speech with the 2 clause resolution that was actually voted on, plus the fact that there is no record of a legal committee ever being formed, and there is no record that a redrafting of the Charter ever occurred, no reasonably objective person could arrive at a conclusion that there was a change in the Charter up to this point.

5. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 1996 issued a communication (click [here](#)) which stated that the PLO had failed to amend the Charter’s clauses no later than May 7, 1996. It further stated that “By leaving the Covenant (the Charter) intact, the PLO sends a clear message that it has not renounced violence nor accepted Israel’s right to exist.”

Arafat’s 1998 Letter to President Clinton

6. There is no record that anything pertaining to the Charter ever occurred from October 1996 until Arafat wrote a letter to President Clinton (click [here](#)) in January 1998. Arafat declared in this 1998 letter that questions have been raised pertaining to the legal effect of the April 1996 PNC action. Arafat then stated “we would like to put to rest these concerns.” In accordance with Article 33 of the Charter, the 1996 PNC Resolution is a comprehensive amendment of the Covenant. All of the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the PLO commitment to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel are no longer in effect.

As a result, articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 have been nullified and parts of articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-7. And 29 that are inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments have also been nullified.

Arafat ended his letter: I can assure on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority that all the provisions of the Covenant that were inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments of September 9/10, 1993) to Prime Minister Rabin, have been nullified.

Arafat stated that specific clauses were annulled in the 1996 Resolution.

Can anyone reasonably arrive at a conclusion that a statement from Arafat that the 1996 PNC vote for the Resolution annulled the specific clauses enumerated in Arafat’s letter to President Clinton when there is not one fact that could sustain Arafat’s allegations?

On the contrary, the 1996 resolution itself specifically appointed a legal committee to draft unspecified actual changes to the Charter in the future which unequivocally means that no actual changes took place at the 1996 vote.

Various Palestinian Reaffirmations of Arafat’s 1998 letter to President Clinton

7. The following series of events occurred in December 1998 which were reaffirmations of the contents of Arafat’s letter to President Clinton:

- a.) Dec. 7, 1998, the Executive Committee of the PLO reaffirmed the letter of Arafat to President Clinton.
- b.) Dec. 10, 1998, the Central Committee of the PLO met and reaffirmed the Arafat letter.
- c.) Dec. 14, 1998 all the Palestinian leaders of all the Palestinian ministries met and reaffirmed the Peace Process, and reaffirmed the actions of the executive Committee and the Central Committee pertaining to the Charter.

Enclosed is the summary of the decisions and actions pertaining to the Palestinian National Charter as currently posted by the Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations. This summary conveniently omitted from the second clause of the 1996 PNC resolution, the words “which will be presented to the PCC during its first meeting.” There is no evidence that this PCC “first” meeting ever took place. Similarly, there is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed nor is there any evidence that a redrafting of the Charter has ever occurred.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Arafat's "subject to" letter to Rabin, the inconclusive clause one of the April 1996 PNC resolution, Arafat's letter to President Clinton, and the three Dec. 1998 votes reaffirming Arafat's letter to President Clinton are the total evidence that the specifically enumerated clauses of the Charter have been annulled or partially annulled.

The evidence that there has never been one word changed in the Charter is as follows:

1. There is not one document that has ever surfaced to support the claim any change in the Charter has ever occurred.
2. PNC Chairman's Zanon's pre-vote speech specifically stated that no amendment was contemplated and that there was to be a redrafting of the new charter. There is no evidence that a redrafted charter is in existence.
3. There is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed pursuant to clause 2 of the April 1996 PNC resolution and no evidence of a new charter (see link to PNC website at end of article.).
4. Three Dec. 1998 reaffirmations of Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton which stated that the consequence of the April 1996 resolution, for which a vast majority of the PNC voted, was an annulment of the specifically enumerated clauses and partial annulments of the other enumerated clauses was an Arafat allegation that never happened. An affirmation of something that never happened does not convert an event that never occurred into an event that happened. Thus, all of those reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to President Clinton were reaffirmations of nothing. (A reaffirmation of a legally defective charter amendment, does not legally convert the legally defective amendment into a legally effective charter amendment.) (A reaffirmation of a fictional false event, doesn't make the fictional false event any more factual or true.) If there were a real intention on the part of the Palestinian leadership to annul any part of the Charter, all they had to do was to have the Palestinian National Council vote specifically to annul each clause as Arafat alleged in his letter.

Facts speak louder than words. The years following the December 14, 1998 Palestinian leaders vote by raising their arms to vote "reaffirming peace," resulted in the greatest amount of Israeli civilian casualties per year since the 1949 armistice. (see link at end of article) The average Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism from January 1999 through December 31, 2009 was 108 versus 28 annual Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism from 1949 through December 31, 1998. If the wall had not been built, the total Israeli deaths would have been much higher.

The result of the "Peace Process" as of this moment is: Palestinians now control land which they have never controlled in recorded history; Hamas control of Gaza; more Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism than ever before; the same PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction which has never been modified; plus a Fatah constitution and a Hamas charter, both of which call for Israel's destruction, and a Palestinian leadership mindset to destroy Israel which has not changed one iota.

FYI: WKL BOOKLET (enclosed 40 pages)

<http://williamklangfan.com/the-plo-charter-amendment-that-never-was/>

PNC Permanent Mission to the United Nations website information

www.marklangfan.com/8-permanentunmissionwebsiteinfo.htm

List of Israeli Civilian deaths from Terrorism www.marklangfan.com/9-civiliandeathsfromterrorism.html

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THE PLO CHARTER AMENDMENT THAT NEVER WAS

By William K. Langfan

Introduction

The “Peace Process” which began with the Declaration of Principles (DOP) in 1993 and continued with the Oslo Accords was actually an Israeli divestiture of land in exchange for PROMISES of peace from the Palestinian leadership.

One of the major and probably the most important Palestinian obligation in the “Peace Process” was a promise to annul the onerous clauses of their formal original 29 clause 1964 Charter (the “Charter”) which was amended into a 33 clause charter in 1968 after the 1967 War. The importance of the Charter to the Palestinians can not be exaggerated. To the Palestinians, it is virtually their “Junior Koran.” These clauses in the Charter, in sum, declared the establishment of Israel illegal and void and called for armed resistance until Palestine was liberated.

It is the opinion of the writer predicated upon the facts which follow that not one word of the Charter has ever been changed. Arafat and the subsequent Palestinian leadership instituted a series of steps to indicate that the Charter had been changed; however, there is not one shred of evidence that any change has ever occurred.

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1. (Clause 33 of the enclosed Charter as amended in 1968 specifically states that there can be no change to the Charter unless 2/3’s of the full membership of the Palestinian National Council and such a vote can only be made in a meeting specially noticed for an amendment change.(See enclosed 1968 Charter)

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Palestine National Charter of 1964

INTRODUCTION

We, the Palestinian Arab people, who waged fierce and continuous battles to safeguard its homeland, to defend its dignity and honor, and who offered all through the years continuous caravans of immortal martyrs, and who wrote the noblest pages of sacrifice, offering and giving.

We, the Palestinian Arab people, who faced the forces of evil, injustice and aggression, against whom the forces of international Zionism and colonialism conspire and worked to displace it, dispossess it from its homeland and property, abused what is holy in it and who in spite of all this refused to weaken or submit.

We, the Palestinian Arab people, who believe in its Arabism and in its right to regain its homeland, to realize its freedom and dignity, and who have determined to amass its forces and mobilize its efforts and capabilities in order to continue its struggle and to move forward on the path of holy war (al-jihad) until complete and final victory has been attained,

We, the Palestinian Arab people, based on our right of self-defense and the complete restoration of our lost homeland- a right that has been recognized by international covenants and common practices including the Charter of the United Nations-and in implementation of the principles of human rights, and comprehending the international political relations, with its various ramifications and dimensions, and considering the past experiences in all that pertains to the causes of the catastrophe, and the means to face it,

And embarking from the Palestinian Arab reality, and for the sake of the honor of the Palestinian individual and his right to free and dignified life,

And realizing the national grave responsibility placed upon our shoulders, for the sake of all this, We, the Palestinian Arab people, dictate and declare this Palestinian National Charter and swear to realize it.

Article 1. Palestine is an Arab homeland bound by strong Arab national ties to the rest of the Arab Countries and which together form the great Arab homeland.

Article 2: Palestine, with its boundaries at the time of the British Mandate, is a indivisible territorial unit.

Article 3: The Palestinian Arab people has the legitimate right to its homeland and is an inseparable part of the Arab Nation. It shares the sufferings and aspirations of the Arab Nation and its struggle for freedom, sovereignty, progress and unity.

Article 4: The people of Palestine determine its destiny when it completes the liberation of its homeland in accordance with its own wishes and free will and choice.

Article 5: The Palestinian personality is a permanent and genuine characteristic that does not disappear. It is transferred from fathers to sons.

Article 6: The Palestinians are those Arab citizens who were living normally in Palestine up to 1947, whether they remained or were expelled. Every child who was born to a Palestinian Arab father after this date, whether in Palestine or outside, is a Palestinian.

Article 7: Jews of Palestinian origin are considered Palestinians if they are willing to live peacefully and loyally in Palestine.

Article 8: Bringing up Palestinian youth in an Arab and nationalist manner is a fundamental national duty. All means of guidance, education and enlightenment should be utilized to introduce the youth to its homeland in a deep spiritual way that will constantly and firmly bind them together.

Article 9: Ideological doctrines, whether political, social, or economic, shall not distract the people of Palestine from the primary duty of liberating their homeland. All Palestinians constitute one national front and work with all their feelings and material potentialities to free their homeland.

Article 10: Palestinians have three mottos: National Unity, National Mobilization, and Liberation. Once liberation is completed, the people of Palestine shall choose for its public life whatever political, economic, or social system they want.

Article 11: The Palestinian people firmly believe in Arab unity, and in order to play its role in realizing this goal, it must, at this stage of its struggle, preserve its Palestinian personality and all its constituents. It must strengthen the consciousness of its existence and stance and stand against any attempt or plan that may weaken or disintegrate its personality.

Article 12: Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine are two complementary goals; each prepares for the attainment of the other. Arab unity leads to the liberation of Palestine, and the liberation of Palestine leads to Arab unity. Working for both must go side by side.

Article 13: The destiny of the Arab Nation and even the essence of Arab existence are firmly tied to the destiny of the Palestine question. From this firm bond stems the effort and struggle of the Arab Nation to liberate Palestine. The people of Palestine assume a vanguard role in achieving this sacred national goal.

Article 14: The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national duty. Its responsibilities fall upon the entire Arab nation, governments and peoples, the Palestinian peoples being in the forefront. For this purpose, the Arab nation must mobilize its military, spiritual and material potentialities; specifically, it must give to the Palestinian Arab people all possible support and backing and place at its disposal all opportunities and means to enable them to perform their role in liberating their homeland.

Article 15: The liberation of Palestine, from a spiritual viewpoint, prepares for the Holy Land an atmosphere of tranquillity and peace, in which all the Holy Places will be safeguarded, and the freedom to worship and to visit will be guaranteed for all, without any discrimination of race, color, language, or religion. For all this, the Palestinian people look forward to the support of all the spiritual forces in the world.

Article 16: The liberation of Palestine, from an international viewpoint, is a defensive act necessitated by the demands of self-defense as stated in the Charter of the United Nations. For that, the people of Palestine, desiring to befriend all nations which love freedom, justice, and peace, look forward to their support in restoring the legitimate situation to Palestine, establishing peace and security in its territory, and enabling its people to exercise national sovereignty and freedom.

Article 17: The partitioning of Palestine, which took place in 1947, and the establishment of Israel are illegal and null and void, regardless of the loss of time, because they were contrary to the will of the Palestinian people and its natural right to its homeland, and were in violation of the basic principles

embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, foremost among which is the right to self-determination.

Article 18: The Balfour Declaration, the Palestine Mandate System, and all that has been based on them are considered null and void. The claims of historic and spiritual ties between Jews and Palestine are not in agreement with the facts of history or with the true basis of sound statehood. Judaism, because it is a divine religion, is not a nationality with independent existence. Furthermore, the Jews are not one people with an independent personality because they are citizens to their states.

Article 19: Zionism is a colonialist movement in its inception, aggressive and expansionist in its goal, racist in its configurations, and fascist in its means and aims. Israel, in its capacity as the spearhead of this destructive movement and as the pillar of colonialism, is a permanent source of tension and turmoil in the Middle East, in particular, and to the international community in general. Because of this, the people of Palestine are worthy of the support and sustenance of the community of nations.

Article 20: The causes of peace and security and the requirements of right and justice demand from all nations, in order to safeguard true relationships among peoples and to maintain the loyalty of citizens to their homeland, that they consider Zionism an illegal movement and outlaw its presence and activities.

Article 21: The Palestinian people believes in the principles of justice, freedom, sovereignty, self-determination, human dignity, and the right of peoples to practice these principles. It also supports all international efforts to bring about peace on the basis of justice and free international cooperation.

Article 22: The Palestinian people believe in peaceful co-existence on the basis of legal existence, for there can be no coexistence with aggression, nor can there be peace with occupation and colonialism.

Article 23: In realizing the goals and principles of this Convent, the Palestine Liberation Organization carries out its full role to liberate Palestine in accordance with the basic law of this Organization.

Article 24: This Organization does not exercise any territorial sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip or in the Himmah Area. Its activities will be on the national popular level in the liberational, organizational, political and financial fields.

Article 25: This Organization is in charge of the movement of the Palestinian people in its struggle to liberate its homeland in all liberational, organizational, and financial matters, and in all other needs of the Palestine Question in the Arab and international spheres.

Article 26: The Liberation Organization cooperates with all Arab governments, each according to its ability, and does not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab states.

Article 27: This Organization shall have its flag, oath and a national anthem. All this shall be resolved in accordance with special regulations.

Article 28: The basic law for the Palestine Liberation Organization is attached to this Charter. This law defines the manner of establishing the Organization, its organs, institutions, the specialties of each one of them, and all the needed duties thrust upon it in accordance with this Charter.

Article 29: This Charter cannot be amended except by two-thirds majority of the members of the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization in a special session called for this purpose.

*Adopted in 1964 by the 1st Palestinian Conference

Palestine National Charter of 1968

Article 1: Palestine is the homeland of the Arab Palestinian people; it is an indivisible part of the greater Arab homeland, and the Palestinian people are an integral part of the Arab nation.

Article 2: Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British Mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit.

Article 3: The Palestinian Arab people possess the legal right to their homeland and to self-determination after the completion of the liberation of their country in accordance with their wishes and entirely of their own accord and will.

Article 4: The Palestinian identity is a genuine, essential, and inherent characteristic; it is transmitted from fathers to children. The Zionist occupation and the dispersal of the Palestinian Arab people, through the disasters which befell them, do not make them lose their Palestinian identity and their membership in the Palestinian community, nor do they negate them.

Article 5: The Palestinians are those Arab nationals who, until 1947, normally resided in Palestine regardless of whether they were evicted from it or stayed there. Anyone born, after that date, of a Palestinian father- whether in Palestine or outside it- is also a Palestinian.

Article 6: The Jews who had normally resided in Palestine until the beginning of the Zionist invasion are considered Palestinians.

Article 7: There is a Palestinian community and that it has material, spiritual, and historical connection with Palestine are indisputable facts. It is a national duty to bring up individual Palestinians in an Arab revolutionary manner. All means of information and education must be adopted in order to acquaint the Palestinian with his country in the most profound manner, both spiritual and material, that is possible. He must be prepared for the armed struggle and ready to sacrifice his wealth and his life in order to win back his homeland and bring about its liberation.

Article 8: The phase in their history, through which the Palestinian people are now living, is that of national (watani) struggle for the liberation of Palestine. Thus the conflicts among the Palestinian national forces are secondary, and should be ended for the sake of the basic conflict that exists between the forces of Zionism and of colonialism on the one hand, and the Palestinian Arab people on the other. On this basis the Palestinian masses, regardless of whether they are residing in the national homeland or in Diaspora (mahajir) constitute- both their organizations and the individuals- one national front working for the retrieval of Palestine and its liberation through armed struggle.

Article 9: Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. This is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase. The Palestinian Arab people assert their absolute determination and firm resolution to continue their armed struggle and to work for an armed popular revolution for the liberation of their country and their return to it. They also assert their right to normal life in Palestine and to exercise their right to self-determination and sovereignty over it.

Article 10: Commando (Feday'ee) action constitutes the nucleus of the Palestinian popular liberation war. This requires its escalation, comprehensiveness, and the mobilization of all the Palestinian popular and educational efforts and their organization and involvement in the armed Palestinian revolution. It also requires the achieving of unity for the national (watani) struggle among the different groupings of the Palestinian people, and between the Palestinian people and the Arab masses, so as to secure the continuation of the revolution, its escalation, and victory.

Article 11: Palestinians have three mottoes: national unity, national (al-qawmiyya) mobilization, and liberation.

Article 12: The Palestinian Arab people believe in Arab unity. In order to contribute their share toward the attainment of that objective, however, they must, at the present stage of their struggle, safeguard their Palestinian identity and develop their consciousness of that identity, oppose any plan that may dissolve or impair it.

Article 13: Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine are two complementary goals, the attainment of either of which facilitates the attainment of the other. Thus, Arab unity leads to the liberation of Palestine, the liberation of Palestine leads to Arab unity; and the work toward the realization of one objective proceeds side by side with work toward the realization of the other.

Article 14: The destiny of the Arab Nation, and indeed Arab existence itself, depend upon the destiny of the Palestinian cause. From this interdependence springs the Arab nation's pursuit of, and striving for, the liberation of Palestine. The people of Palestine play the role of the vanguard in the realization of this sacred (qawmi) goal.

Article 15: The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national (qawmi) duty and it attempts to repel the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab homeland, and aims at the elimination of Zionism in Palestine. Absolute responsibility for this falls upon the Arab nation-peoples and governments-with the Arab people of Palestine in the vanguard. Accordingly, the Arab nation must mobilize all its military, human, moral, and spiritual capabilities to participate actively with the Palestinian people in the liberation of Palestine. It must, particularly, in the phase of the armed Palestinian revolution, offer and furnish the Palestinian people with all possible help, and material and human support, and make available to them the means and opportunities that will enable them to continue to carry out their leading role in the armed revolution, until they liberate their homeland.

Article 16: The liberation of Palestine, from a spiritual viewpoint, will provide the Holy Land with an atmosphere of safety and tranquillity, which in turn will safeguard the country's religious sanctuaries and guarantee freedom of worship and of visit to all, without discrimination of race, color, language, or religion. Accordingly, the Palestinian people look to all spiritual forces in the world for support.

Article 17: The liberation of Palestine, from a human point of view, will restore to the Palestinian individual his dignity, pride, and freedom. Accordingly, the Palestinian Arab people look forward to the support of all those who believe in the dignity of man and his freedom in the world.

Article 18: The liberation of Palestine, from an international point of view, is a defensive action necessitated by the demands of self-defense. Accordingly, the Palestinian people, desirous as they are of the friendship of all people, look to freedom-loving and peace-loving states for

support in order to restore their legitimate rights in Palestine, to re-establish peace and security in the country, and to enable its people to exercise national sovereignty and freedom.

Article 19: The partition of Palestine in 1947, and the establishment of the state of Israel are entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time, because they were contrary to the will of the Palestinian people and its natural right in their homeland, and were inconsistent with the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the right to self-determination.

Article 20: The Balfour Declaration, the Palestine Mandate, and everything that has been based on them, are deemed null and void. Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the conception of what constitutes statehood. Judaism, being a religion, is not an independent nationality. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of their own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong.

Article 21: The Arab Palestinian people, expressing themselves by armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine and reject all proposals aimed at the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, or at its internationalization.

Article 22: Zionism is a political movement organically associated with international imperialism and antagonistic to all action for liberation and to progressive movements in the world. It is racist and fanatic in its nature, aggressive, expansionist and colonial in its aims, and fascist in its methods. Israel is the instrument of the Zionist movement, and the geographical base for world imperialism placed strategically in the midst of the Arab homeland to combat the hopes of the Arab nation for liberation, unity, and progress. Israel is a constant source of threat vis-à-vis peace in the Middle East and the whole world. Since liberation of Palestine will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence and will contribute to the establishment of peace in the Middle East. That is why the Palestinian people look to the progressive and peaceful forces and urge them all, irrespective of their affiliations and beliefs, to offer the Palestinian people all aid and support in their just struggle for the liberation of their homeland.

Article 23: The demand of security and peace, as well as the demand of right and justice, require all states to consider Zionism an illegitimate movement, to outlaw its existence, and to ban its operations, in order that friendly relations among peoples may be preserved, and the loyalty of citizens to their respective homelands safeguarded.

Article 24: The Palestinian people believe in the principles of justice, freedom, sovereignty, self-determination, human dignity, and the right of peoples to exercise them.

Article 25: For the realization of the goals of this Charter and its principles, the Palestine Liberation Organization will perform its role in the liberation of Palestine.

Article 26: The Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, is responsible for the Palestinian Arab peoples movement in its struggle- to retrieve its homeland, liberate and return to it and exercise the right to self-determination in it- in all military, political, and financial fields and also for whatever may be required by the Palestinian cause on the inter-Arab and international levels.

Article 27: The Palestine Liberation Organization shall cooperate with all Arab states, each according to its potentialities; and will adopt a neutral policy among them in light of the requirements of the battle of liberation; and on this basis does not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab state.

Article 28: The Palestinian Arab people assert the genuineness and independence of their national revolution and reject all forms of intervention, trusteeship, and subordination.

Article 29: The Palestinian people possess the fundamental and genuine legal right to liberate and retrieve their homeland. The Palestinian people determine their attitude toward all states and forces on the basis of the stands they adopt vis-à-vis the Palestinian revolution to fulfill the aims of the Palestinian people.

Article 30: Fighters and carriers of arms in the war of liberation are the nucleus of the popular army which will be the protective force for the gains of the Palestinian Arab people.

Article 31: This Organization shall have a flag, an oath of allegiance, and an anthem. All this shall be decided upon in accordance with a special law.

Article 32: A law, known as the Basic Statute of the Palestine Liberation Organization, shall be annexed to this Covenant. It will lay down the manner in which the Organization, and its organs and institutions, shall be constituted; the respective competence of each; and the requirements of its obligation under the Charter.

Article 33: This Charter shall not be amended save by [vote of] a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the National Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization [taken] at a special session convened for that purpose.

Portions of the Political Programme of 9 June 1974, 12th Palestine National Council

On the basis of the Palestinian National Charter and the Political Programme drawn up at the Eleventh Session, held from January 6-12, 1973; and from its belief that it is impossible for a permanent and just peace to be established in the area unless our Palestinian people recover all their national rights and, first and foremost, their rights to return and to self-determination on the whole of the soil of their homeland; and in the light of a study of the new political circumstances that have come into existence in the period between the Council's last and present sessions, resolves the following:

1. To reaffirm the Palestine Liberation Organization's previous attitude to Resolution 242, which obliterates the national right of our people and deals with the cause of our people as a problem of refugees. The Council therefore refuses to have anything to do with this resolution at any level, Arab or international, including the Geneva Conference.
2. The Liberation Organization will employ all means, and first and foremost armed struggle, to liberate Palestinian territory and to establish the independent combatant national authority for the people over every part of Palestinian territory that is liberated. This will require further changes being effected in the balance of power in favour of our people and their struggle.
3. The Liberation Organization will struggle against any proposal for a Palestinian entity the price of which is recognition, peace, secure frontiers, renunciation of national rights and the deprivation of our people of their right to return and their right to self-determination on the soil of their homeland.
4. Any step taken towards liberation is a step towards the realization of the Liberation Organization's strategy of establishing the democratic Palestinian state specified in the resolutions of previous Palestinian National Councils.
5. Struggle along with the Jordanian national forces to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian national front whose aim will be to set up in Jordan a democratic national authority in close contact with the Palestinian entity that is established through the struggle.
6. The Liberation Organization will struggle to establish unity in struggle between the two peoples and between all the forces of the Arab liberation movement that are in agreement on this programme.
7. In the light of this programme, the Liberation Organization will struggle to strengthen national unity and to raise it to the level where it will be able to perform its national duties and tasks.
8. Once it is established, the Palestinian national authority will strive to achieve a union of the confrontation countries, with the aim of completing the liberation of all Palestinian territory, and as a step along the road to comprehensive Arab unity.
9. The Liberation Organization will strive to strengthen its solidarity with the socialist countries, and with forces of liberation and progress throughout the world, with the aim of frustrating all the schemes of Zionism, reaction and imperialism.

Portions of the Declaration by the Palestinian National Council in Cairo
(March 22, 1977)

1. The Palestinian National Council emphasizes that the Palestinian issue is the root and base of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and that Security Council Resolution 242 takes no heed of the Palestinian nation and its unchallengeable rights. The Council therefore emphasizes its opposition to this Resolution and its refusal to negotiate on the basis of it in the Arab and the international arena.
2. The Council emphasizes the position of the PLO, which is unshakably resolved to continue the armed struggle and its concomitant forms of political and mass struggle, to realize those unchallengeable national rights.
3. The Council emphasizes that the struggle on the occupied soil, in all its forms military, political and mass, is the central link in its plans to wage the fight. On that basis, the PLO is striving to escalate the armed struggle on the occupied soil, and all other concomitant forms of struggle, and to provide all forms of moral assistance to the masses of our people on the occupied soil, so as to intensify this struggle and strengthen their stand to defeat and wipe out the occupation.
4. The Council emphasizes the position of the PLO which opposes all forms of American settlements of capitulation and all plans to blot out (the Palestinians). It emphasizes the determination of the PLO to act to thwart any settlement that might be made at the expense of our nation's unchallengeable national rights, and calls upon the Arab nation to fulfil its national responsibility and mobilize all of its resources to face up to these imperialist and Zionist plans.
5. The Council emphasizes the importance and the need of military and political national unity among all the factions of the Palestinian revolution within the PLO, as a basic condition of victory. National unity must, therefore, be coordinated on the several levels and with the several activities, on the basis of adherence to resolutions and the formulation of blueprints for carrying them out.
8. The Council emphasizes the need to strengthen the Arab front which is a partner in the Palestinian revolution, and the linkage with all its partnered forces in all the Arab States. It emphasizes the need to intensify the common Arab struggle and amplify the support for the Palestinian revolution so that it may resist the imperialist and Zionist plots.
9. The Council has resolved to reinforce Arab solidarity and struggle on the basis of the fight against imperialism and Zionism. It has resolved to act for the liberation of all the occupied Arab lands and to cling to the aims of strengthening the Palestinian revolution, and restoring the permanent national rights of the Palestinian nation, without peace (with Israel) or recognition (of Israel).

Letter from Chairman Yasser Arafat to Prime Minister Rabin:

September 9, 1993

Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister of Israel

Mr. Prime Minister,

The signing of the Declaration of Principles marks a new era in the history of the Middle East. In firm conviction thereof, I would like to confirm the following PLO commitments:

The PLO recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.

The PLO accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations.

The PLO considers that the signing of the Declaration of Principles constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which will endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance prevent violations and discipline violators.

In view of the promise of a new era and the signing of the Declaration of Principles and based on Palestinian acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestinian National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant.

Sincerely,

Yasser Arafat
Chairman
The Palestine Liberation Organization

Letter from Prime Minister Rabin to Yasser Arafat:

September 9, 1993

Yasser Arafat
Chairman
The Palestinian Liberation Organization

Mr. Chairman,

In response to your letter of September 9, 1993, I wish to confirm to you that, in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the Government of Israel has decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East peace process.

Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister of Israel



THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN INTERIM AGREEMENT

Washington, D.C., September 28, 1995

CHAPTER 5 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XXIX

Safe Passage between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Arrangements for safe passage of persons and transportation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are set out in Annex I.

ARTICLE XXX

Passages

Arrangements for coordination between Israel and the Council regarding passage to and from Egypt and Jordan, as well as any other agreed international crossings, are set out in Annex I.

ARTICLE XXXI

Final Clauses

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing.
2. The Gaza-Jericho Agreement, except for Article XX (Confidence-Building Measures), the Preparatory Transfer Agreement and the Further Transfer Protocol will be superseded by this Agreement.
3. The Council, upon its inauguration, shall replace the Palestinian Authority and shall assume all the undertakings and obligations of the Palestinian Authority under the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, the Preparatory Transfer Agreement, and the Further Transfer Protocol.
4. The two sides shall pass all necessary legislation to implement this Agreement.
5. Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than May 4, 1996, between the Parties. It is understood that these negotiations shall cover remaining issues, including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbors, and other issues of common interest.
6. Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice or preempt the outcome of the negotiations on the permanent status to be conducted pursuant to the DOP. Neither Party shall be deemed, by virtue of having entered into this Agreement, to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions.
7. Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations.

8. The two Parties view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, the integrity and status of which will be preserved during the interim period.

9. The PLO undertakes that, within two months of the date of the inauguration of the Council, the Palestinian National Council will convene and formally approve the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant, as undertaken in the letters signed by the Chairman of the PLO and addressed to the Prime Minister of Israel, dated September 9, 1993 and May 4, 1994.

10. Pursuant to Annex I, Article IX of this Agreement, Israel confirms that the permanent checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the Jericho Area (except those related to the access road leading from Mousa Alami to the Allenby Bridge) will be removed upon the completion of the first phase of redeployment.

11. Prisoners who, pursuant to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, were turned over to the Palestinian Authority on the condition that they remain in the Jericho Area for the remainder of their sentence, will be free to return to their homes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip upon the completion of the first phase of redeployment.

12. As regards relations between Israel and the PLO, and without derogating from the commitments contained in the letters signed by and exchanged between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO, dated September 9, 1993 and May 4, 1994, the two sides will apply between them the provisions contained in Article XXII, paragraph 1, with the necessary changes.

13. a. The Preamble to this Agreement, and all Annexes, Appendices and maps attached hereto, shall constitute an integral part hereof.

b. The Parties agree that the maps attached to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement as:

a. map No. 1 (The Gaza Strip), an exact copy of which is attached to this Agreement as map No. (in this Agreement "map No. 2");

b. map No. 4 (Deployment of Palestinian Police in the Gaza Strip), an exact copy of which is attached to this Agreement as map No. 5 (in this Agreement "map No. 5"); and

c. map No. 6 (Maritime Activity Zones), an exact copy of which is attached to this Agreement as map No. 8 (in this Agreement "map No. 8"); are an integral part hereof and will remain in effect for the duration of this Agreement.

14. While the Jeftlik area will come under the functional and personal jurisdiction of the Council in the first phase of redeployment, the area's transfer to the territorial jurisdiction of the Council will be considered by the Israeli side in the first phase of the further redeployment phases.

Done at Washington DC, this 28th day of September, 1995.

For the Government of the State of Israel
For the PLO

The Institute for Peace Education

The voting session of the Palestinian National Council on the Palestinian Charter Gaza April 24, 1996

Saleem Al-Za'anoon, PNC chairman, Explaining the proposal before the members:

I want to tell you before the voting begins that the judicial committee,

when I attended it, was totally convinced, with a majority of

43 out of 44 members, that we must fulfill the commitment demanded

of us, at the lowest possible price. Therefore, it was said, if we

amend those articles, whose amendment is demanded

it will mean that we have paid a very high price. And if we

prepare a new proposal, it will be less damaging than the 1st solution,

in that, a new charter, no doubt..... Brothers, you must listen, I will

not allow you, its my right to speak. Putting forth a new proposal for the

national covenant is less damaging than the first thing (amending it).

To enter into details (on why it's less damaging) would be of free service (to the Israelis.)

But the version which was drafted is the least damaging that we could

submit. It gives us an extension of 6 months until the Central

Council convenes. And then the Central Council will discuss it.

And it's within its rights to say "I leave it for the National Council"

Brothers, with all my heart, I tell you, that the version which is

in your hands is the best one to be presented to the Palestinian people

regarding the commitment which we have no way out but to pay.

Therefore, brothers, I ask of those who didn't have patience

to listen to me, two words, and thanks also to those

who had the patience.

Now all that Article 33 consists of is that a special majority of

two-thirds is needed.

If more than two-thirds will raise their hands for this proposal,

we will consider it approved.

And if they don't, if less than two-thirds will raise their hands,

I tell you in all honesty that the proposal will fall, and then...

(Arafat): *God-willing.*

God willing, but I say, my brother, Abu Ammar, I hope,

(that the voting) will succeed with more than two-thirds.

(Arafat): *Everyone here, believe me, is more (responsible) than you and me.*

and more than Abu 'Alla. Everyone is more responsible than us.

Brothers, who agrees to this proposal raise his hand.

and leave it up until the counting ends.

Marwan Kanafani, Arafat's former spokesman, Member of the PNC and Palestinian Authority Council Explaining to journalists the results of the vote

It is not an amendment.
It is not an amendment.

It is a license to start to found a new charter.

Palestinian National Charter Amendment, April 24, 1996

The Palestinian National Council (PNC), in its 21st meeting, and based on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and Political Statement, approved during its 19th meeting, held in Algeria on November 15, 1988, which adopted the two-state solution, and confirmed the principle of peaceful resolution of conflicts;

And following the introduction of the Declaration of Principles Agreement, signed in Washington [DC] on September 13, which included the agreement of both parties that the time has come to end decades of confrontation and conflict, and to acknowledge both of their legitimate mutual legal rights; and to seek a peaceful, dignified and mutually secure living; and to achieve a peaceful, just, permanent and inclusive resolution, and a historic compromise through the agreed upon political process; and following the international legitimacy presented by United Nations (U.N.) resolutions pertaining the issue of Palestine, including [the issues of] settlements, Jerusalem, [Palestinian] refugees and the remaining issues of the final stage and the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 and 338; and confirming the commitments of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) listed in Oslo's Declaration of Principles Agreement, and Cairo's agreement, and letters of recognition, signed on September 9 and 10, 1993, and the Israeli-Palestinian final stage agreement regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Oslo 2), signed in Washington [DC] on September 28, 1995, and PLO Central Council (PCC) decision in October 1993 which accepted Oslo's agreement and all its addendums; and following the convening principles of Madrid Peace Conference and Washington's [DC] negotiations, hereby decides:

First: Amending the Palestinian National Charter, and canceling articles opposing the exchanged letters between PLO and the Israeli government on September 9 and 10, 1993.

Second: The PNC assigns the legal committee the responsibility of rewording the Palestinian National Charter; which will later be presented to the PCC during its first meeting.

تعديل الميثاق الوطني الفلسطيني 24/4/1996

إن المجلس الوطني إذ ينعقد في دورته الحادية والعشرين، وإذ ينطلق من وثيقة إعلان الاستقلال والبيان السياسي المعتمدين في الدورة التاسعة عشرة المنعقدة في الجزائر في 15 نوفمبر (تشرين الثاني) 1988 والتي نصت على اعتماد حل لدولتين وأكدت مبدأ حل النزاعات بالطرق السلمية،

وإذ يستند إلى مقدمة اتفاق إعلان المبادئ الموقع في واشنطن في 13 سبتمبر (أيلول) والتي تضمنت اتفاق الطرفين على أن الوقت قد حان لإنهاء عقود من المواجهة والنزاع والاعتراف بحقوقهما السياسية المشروعة المتبادلة والسعي إلى العيش في ظل تعايش سلمي وبكرامة وأمن متبادلين ولتحقيق تسوية سلمية عادلة ودائمة وشاملة ومصالحة تاريخية من خلال العملية السياسية المتفق عليها، وإذ يستند إلى الشرعية الدولية المتمثلة في قرارات الأمم المتحدة الخاصة بقضية فلسطين، بما فيها المتعلقة بالمستوطنات

والقدس واللاجنين وبقية قضايا المرحلة النهائية وتطبيق القرارين (242 و338)، وإذ يؤكد التزامات منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية الواردة في اتفاق إعلان المبادئ في أوسلو والاتفاق الموقع في القاهرة ورسائل الاعتراف الموقعة في 9 و10 سبتمبر (أيلول) 1993 والاتفاق الإسرائيلي - الفلسطيني المرحلي حول الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة (أوسلو 2) الموقع في واشنطن في 28 سبتمبر (أيلول) 1995 وقرار المجلس المركزي لمنظمة التحرير الفلسطينية في أكتوبر (تشرين الأول) 1993 الذي وافق على اتفاق أوسلو وجميع ملحقاته، وإذ يستند إلى المبادئ التي انعقدت على أساسها مؤتمر مدريد للسلام ومفاوضات واشنطن، يقرر:

أولاً: تعديل الميثاق الوطني وإلغاء المواد التي تتعارض مع الرسائل المتبادلة بين منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية وحكومة إسرائيل يومي 9 و10 سبتمبر (أيلول) 1993.

ثانياً: يكلف المجلس الوطني الفلسطيني اللجنة القانونية إعادة صوغ الميثاق الوطني ويتم عرضه على المجلس المركزي في أول اجتماع له.



Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations



Decisions and Actions Related to the Palestine National Charter

1. The PNC met in a special session on 26 April 1996 to consider the issue of amending the Palestine National Charter and adopted the following decision:

A. To abrogate the provisions of the Palestine National Charter that contradict the letters exchanged between Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of September 9 & 10 1993.

B. To mandate the legal committee of the PLO to present a new text of the Palestine National Charter.

The decision was adopted by more than the required two-thirds majority by a vote of: 504 in favor, 54 against, and 14 abstentions.

2. On 22 January 1998, Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a letter to President Bill Clinton of the US outlining the implications of the PNC decision of 24 April 1996 in terms of the specific articles of the Palestine National Charter that were nullified or amended. As a result, Articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 have been nullified, and the parts in Articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29 that are inconsistent with PLO commitments to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel have also been nullified.

3. On 7 December 1998, the Executive Committee of the PLO reaffirmed the above-mentioned letter sent by Chairman Yasser Arafat to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

On 10 December, the Central Council of the PLO met in Gaza and also decided to reaffirm that letter.

4. On 14 December 1998, at the invitation of Chairman Yasser Arafat, the speaker of the PNC, and the speaker of the Palestinian Council, members of the PNC, as well as members of the Central Council, the Council, Palestinian heads of Ministries, and other personalities convened a meeting in Gaza which was addressed by President Bill Clinton of the United States. The participants reaffirmed, by a show of hands, their support for the peace process and the above-mentioned decisions of the Executive Committee and the Central Council regarding the Charter.

Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations

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October 25, 1996

Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Communicated by the Government Press Office)

Failure to Change the PLO Covenant The PLO was obligated to amend the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant which called for the destruction of Israel no later than 7 May 1996 (Article XXXII (9)). On 24 April 1996, the PLO's Palestinian National Covenant (PNC) met and approved such an amendment in principle, yet "the vote did not actually change the Covenant, but gave authority to a PNC legal committee to do so or to draw up a completely new charter within six months." (Jerusalem Post, 25 April 1996) Six months have passed, and no such changes have been made, nor has the PLO specified which particular articles will be changed or when the changes will go into effect. By leaving the Covenant intact, the PLO sends a clear message that it has not renounced violence nor accepted Israel's right to exist.

Letter From Yassar Arafat to President Clinton

January 13, 1998

**His Excellency President William Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington D.C.**

Dear Mr. President.

In the mutual recognition letters between myself and the late Prime Minister Itzhaq Rabin of September 9/10, 1993, the PLO committed to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security, to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two ideas. The PLO also agreed to secure the necessary changes in the Palestinian Covenant to reflect these commitments.

Accordingly, the P.N.C. was held in Gaza city between 22-25 of April 1996, and in an extraordinary session decided that the "Palestine National Charter is hereby amended by canceling the articles that are contrary to the letters exchanged between the P.L.O. and the Government of Israel on 9/10 September 1993".

It should be noted that the above mentioned resolution acquired the consent of both the American Administration and the Israeli Government. Afterwards I sent letters concerning this historic resolution to your Excellency and Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and later a similar letter was sent to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

Both your Excellency and Prime Minister Peres warmly welcomed the P.N.C. Resolution.

The Israeli Labor Party, and in appreciation of the P.N.C. resolution dropped its objection to the establishment of a Palestinian State from its political platform.

From time to time questions have been raised about the effect of the Palestine National Council's action, particularly concerning which of the 33 articles of the Palestinian Covenant have been changed.

We would like to put to rest these concerns. The Palestine National Council's resolution, in accordance with Article 33 of the Covenant, is a comprehensive amendment of the Covenant. All of the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the P.L.O. commitment to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel are no longer in effect.

As a result, Articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 have been nullified, and the parts in Articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29 that are inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments have also been nullified.

I can assure you on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority that all the provisions of the Covenant that were inconsistent with the commitments of September 9/10, 1993) to Prime Minister Rabin, have been nullified.

Nablus: January 13, 1998

Yasser Arafat
Chairman of the Executive Committee Of the P.L.O.
President of the P.N.A.

WYE RIVER MEMORANDUM
October 23, 1998

The PLO Charter:

1. The executive committee of the PLO and the Palestinian Central Council will reaffirm the letter of 22 January from PLO Chairman Arafat to President Clinton concerning the nullification of the Palestinian National Charter provisions that are inconsistent with the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Government of Israel on 9/10 September 1993.

2. PLO Chairman Arafat, the Speaker of the Palestine National Council, and the Speaker of the Palestinian Council, will invite the members of the PNC, as well as the members of the Central Council, the Council, and the Palestinian Heads of Ministries to a meeting to be addressed by President Clinton to reaffirm their support for the Peace Process and the aforementioned decisions of the Executive Committee and the Central Council.

On Thursday, December 10, the PLO Central Council met in Gaza and by a vote of 81 to 7 reaffirmed the letter from Arafat to Clinton in January 1998. On Monday, December 14, President Clinton will address the Palestine National Council and other officials, who are then expected to reaffirm the Central Council's vote. (There is no written record of this vote)

On December 14, the PLO, the PCC, and the heads of the various Palestinian ministries met and reaffirmed the PCC vote. (There is no written record of this vote)



WILLIAM J. CLINTON

XLII President of the United States: 1993-2001

Remarks to the Palestine National Council and Other Palestinian Organizations in Gaza City

December 14, 1998

Thank you. Mr. Speaker—Mr. Za'anoun, Chairman Arafat, Mrs. Arafat; members of the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinian Central Council, the Palestinian Executive Committee, Palestinian Council heads of ministries; leaders of business and religion; to all members of the Palestinian community; and to my fellow Americans who come here from many walks of life, Arab-American, Jewish-American: This is a remarkable day. Today the eyes of the world are on you.

I am profoundly honored to be the first American President to address the Palestinian people in a city governed by Palestinians.

I have listened carefully to all that has been said. I have watched carefully the reactions of all of you to what has been said. I know that the Palestinian people stand at a crossroads: behind you a history of dispossession and dispersal, before you the opportunity to shape a new Palestinian future on your own land.

I know the way is often difficult and frustrating, but you have come to this point through a commitment to peace and negotiations. You reaffirmed that commitment today. I believe it is the only way to fulfill the aspirations of your people. And I am profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Chairman Arafat for the cause of peace, to come here as a friend of peace and a friend of your future, and to witness you raising your hands, standing up tall, standing up not only against what you believe is wrong but for what you believe is right in the future.

I was sitting here thinking that this moment would have been inconceivable a decade ago: no Palestinian Authority; no elections in Gaza and the West Bank; no relations between the United States and Palestinians; no Israeli troop redeployments from the West Bank and Gaza; no Palestinians in charge in Gaza, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarem, Jenin, Nablus, Jericho, and so many other places; there was no Gaza International Airport.

Today I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon on the international airport. Hillary and I, along with Chairman and Mrs. Arafat, celebrated a place that will become a magnet for planes from throughout the Middle East and beyond, bringing you a future in which Palestinians can travel directly to the far corners of the world; a future in which it is easier and cheaper to bring materials, technology, and expertise in and out of Gaza; a future in which tourists and traders can flock here, to this beautiful place on the Mediterranean; a future, in short, in which the Palestinian people are connected to the world.

I am told that just a few months ago, at a time of profound pessimism in the peace process, your largest exporter of fruit and flowers was prepared to plow under a field of roses, convinced the airport would never open. But Israelis and Palestinians came to agreement at Wye River, the airport has

The fulfillment of one side's aspirations must not come at the expense of the other. We must believe that everyone can win in the new Middle East. It does not hurt Israelis to hear Palestinians peacefully and proudly asserting their identity, as we saw today. That is not a bad thing. And it does not hurt Palestinians to acknowledge the profound desire of Israelis to live without fear. It is in this spirit that I ask you to consider where we go from here.

I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the Government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there.

I know how profoundly important this is to Israelis. I have been there four times as President. I have spent a lot of time with people other than the political leaders, Israeli schoolchildren who heard about you only as someone who thought they should be driven into the sea. They did not know what their parents or grandparents did that you thought was so bad; they were just children, too. Is it surprising that all this has led to the hardening of hearts on both sides, that they refused to acknowledge your existence as a people and that led to a terrible reaction by you?

By turning this page on the past, you are taking the lead in writing a new story for the future. And you have issued a challenge to the Government and the leaders of Israel to walk down that path with you. I thank you for doing that. The children of all the Middle East thank you.

But declaring a change of heart still won't be enough. Let's be realistic here. First of all, there are real differences. And secondly, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge, as we used to say at home. An American poet has written, "Too long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart." Palestinians and Israelis in their pasts both share a history of oppression and dispossession; both have felt their hearts turn to stone for living too long in fear and seeing loved ones die too young. You are two great people of strong talent and soaring ambition, sharing such a small piece of sacred land.

The time has come to sanctify your holy ground with genuine forgiveness and reconciliation. Every influential Palestinian, from teacher to journalist, from politician to community leader, must make this a mission to banish from the minds of children glorifying suicide bombers, to end the practice of speaking peace in one place and preaching hatred in another, to teach schoolchildren the value of peace and the waste of war, to break the cycle of violence. Our great American prophet Martin Luther King once said, "The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind."

I believe you have gained more in 5 years of peace than in 45 years of war. I believe that what we are doing today, working together for security, will lead to further gains and changes in the heart. I believe that our work against terrorism, if you stand strong, will be rewarded, for that must become a fact of the past. It must never be a part of your future.

Let me say this as clearly as I can: No matter how sharp a grievance or how deep a hurt, there is no justification for killing innocents.

Mr. Chairman, you said at the White House that no Israeli mother should have to worry if her son or daughter is late coming home. Your words touched many people. You said much the same thing

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March 27, 2013

VIA FEDEX

The Honorable William J. Clinton
55 West 125th Street
New York, New York 10027

RE: Your December 14, 1998 Speech to the Leaders of the Palestinians

Dear President Clinton,

You have recently written an article which was published in the Washington Post in which you stated that you now consider unconstitutional the Defense of Marriage law outlawing recognition of gay marriage which you signed, as President. I consider it extremely admirable for you to admit that you made a mistake on such an important issue.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the following paragraph from your remarkable speech which you delivered to the Palestinian leaders on December 14, 1998:

“ . . . I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the Government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there. . . .”

The Palestinian leaders, prior to your speech, had reaffirmed the content of Arafat's January 13, 1998 letter to you. Arafat in this letter listed several enumerated clauses from their all-important Palestinian Charter (Covenant) which he alleged were annulled by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) on April 24, 1996. These Arafat allegations were untrue which I shall prove to you below. If these Arafat allegations were not true, all of the December 1998 Palestinian reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to you are meaningless. A reaffirmation of a non-existing fact can not convert the non-occurrence into something that took place.

I make the following offer: I hereby agree to donate \$100,000 to your William J. Clinton Foundation plus \$25,000 each to Paraplegic American Vets, Blinded American Vets, Paraplegic Israeli Vets, and Blinded Israeli Vets if someone comes forward with a valid Charter dated prior to January 13, 1998, which omits the allegedly annulled Charter clauses and includes the newly partially annulled clauses, enumerated in Arafat's January letter to you.

The Palestinian daisy chain of chicanery to bamboozle you, Prime Minister Netanyahu and the world that they changed their Charter starts with Arafat's September 9, 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin. Arafat stated in this letter ". . . The PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant (Charter) which deny Israel's right to exist and the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. **Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the (PNC) Palestinian National Council (Congress) for formal approval changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant.**"

Clause 33 of the 1968 Amended 1964 Charter states "This charter shall not be amended save by [votes of] a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the National Congress (Council) of the Palestinian Liberation Organization [taken at] a special session convened for that purpose." Therefore, every Arafat commitment which contravened the Charter was subject to the approval of the PNC. Each, if not all of Arafat's commitments in his letter to Prime Minister Rabin were violative of Charter articles. Simply stated, unless the PNC voted to approve Arafat's commitments pursuant to Article 33, Arafat's commitments were worthless.

More than two and one half years after Arafat's Sept. 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin, the PNC met on April 24, 1996. Before the members voted for a two clause resolution, PNC Chairman Zanoun delivered a speech in which he declared that we had to do something (he was indirectly referring to Clause XXXI, Paragraph 9 of Oslo II which required the modification of the Charter clauses within two months of the inauguration of Oslo II.) Oslo II became effective on March 7, 1996 which meant that changes in the Charter had to take place before May 7, 1996. Zanoun further stated that it would be less damaging if we prepared a new Charter rather than amending the old charter which gives us an extension of six months until the Central Council meets. It is very obvious that Zanoun was pleading with the PNC members to vote for the resolution because in reality it was a delaying tactic.

The two clause resolution for which the members of the PNC voted clearly did not change the Palestinian Charter. Clause one definitely states that the PNC intends to amend the Charter by cancelling articles which are contrary to the September exchange of letters between Arafat and Rabin. However, no specific Charter clauses were mentioned. Clause two assigns to a legal committee the task of redrafting the Charter and presenting it to the PCC (Palestinian Central Council) at a future time. No reading of those two clauses combined with the Zanoun speech and the fact that there is no evidence that a legal committee ever redrafted a new Charter and no evidence that anything was ever presented to the PCC, could possibly enable any reasonably objective person to conclude that any specific change in the Charter happened when the PNC voted to approve the resolution.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a communique in October 1996 in response to the PNC April 1996 resolution and vote. It referred to Clause XXXI of Oslo II requiring changes in the Charter within two months from the inauguration of the agreement. The communique then stated that no changes were made in the PNC April 1996 resolution and vote. There is no evidence that anything pertaining to the Charter ever occurred after the October 1996 Israel Foreign Ministry Communique until Arafat sent his January 13, 1998 letter to you.

Arafat alleged in this letter that specifically enumerated clauses of the Charter were annulled and that other specifically enumerated clauses were partially annulled by the PNC April 1996 vote. These allegations were bold face lies. The evidence above unequivocally proves that nothing specific happened in that PNC April 1996 vote and nothing pertaining to the Charter

happened since that vote. The Wye River Memorandum and the subsequent Palestinian Leaders December 1998 votes and reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to you could not convert a lie into the truth. If the Palestinian leadership really wanted to amend the Charter, they had two years and seven months from the date of Arafat's letter to Prime Minister Rabin to list the annulled clauses and redraft the Charter.

Every Palestinian leadership step proved conclusively that they never intended to change one word of their Charter. They used Arafat's deceptive, meaningless Sept. 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin and the April 1996 PNC vote which referred to Arafat's letter as the basis of an amendment without actually amending anything. Then they used Arafat's false allegations in his January 1998 letter to you and reaffirmations of falsehoods as a continuation of their chain of alleged annulments without ever changing one word of the Charter.

Mr. President, I believe that you would perform a service to our country, the world, and to yourself if you were to state that the Palestinians have never changed their "Destroy Israel" Charter which was created when Israel was within her 1967 borders.

Respectfully,



William K. Langfan

Enclosures:

- 1 - 1964 PLO Charter
- 2 - 1968 Amended PLO Charter
- 3 - Letters between Arafat & Rabin, Sept. 1993
- 4 - Zanon Speech 4/24/96 & DVD
- 5 - 1996 PNC Resolution (Arabic & English)
- 6 - Israeli Foreign Ministry Communique
- 7 - Arafat Letter to President Clinton, Jan. 13, 1998
- 8 - Wye River Memorandum
- 9 - Portions of President Clinton Speech, Dec. 14, 1998

Fatalities from Palestinian Terrorism (1920 - 2012)

Year	Number of Deaths	Year	Number of Deaths	Year	Number of Deaths
1920	9	1951	41	1982	6
1921	24	1952	40	1983	21
1922	5	1953	46	1984	9
1923	0	1954	41	1985	27
1924	4	1955	30	1986	14
1925	1	1956	53	1987	11
1926	1	1957	19	1988	16
1927	1	1958	15	1989	40
1928	0	1959	10	1990	33
1929	119	1960	11	1991	21
1930	0	1961	8	1992	34
1931	2	1962	10	1993	45
1932	4	1963	7	1994	65
1933	0	1964	9	1995	29
1934	0	1965	10	1996	56
1935	1	1966	10	1997	41
1936	44	1967	16	1998	16
1937	10	1968	55	1999	8
1938	94	1969	33	2000	43
1939	26	1970	74	2001	207
1940	137	1971	18	2002	457
1941	14	1972	46	2003	213
1942	4	1973	27	2004	124
1943	1	1974	67	2005	53
1944	3	1975	39	2006	29
1945	1	1976	14	2007	13
1946	28	1977	9	2008	36
1947	152	1978	57	2009	6
1948	379	1979	10	2010	10
1949	37	1980	16	2011	21
1950	52	1981	14	2012	0 ...

During the six years of the first [uprising](#) (Dec. 9, 1987 to [Sep. 9, 1993](#)), 200 people were murdered. More than 1,000 Israelis were killed during the [Palestinian War](#) (September 2000-September 2005).

*Note: Figures include Israeli civilians and security personnel, and foreigners killed in [Palestinian terrorist](#) attacks in Israel and the territories. They do not include Palestinians killed by other Palestinians on suspicion of cooperating with Israel. This list also includes 18 Israelis killed abroad in terror attacks directed specifically against Israeli targets, and 3 American diplomatic personnel killed in [Gaza](#).

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Peace/osloterr.html>

The Palestinian National Charter (Covenant) as allegedly annulled and modified pursuant to Arafat's January 13, 1998 letter to President Clinton

WKL Charter Revision: There is no record that any of these articles had been partially modified; nor is there any valid PNC vote which specifically nullified any article.

A/A = Allegedly Annulled under Arafat's 1/13/98 letter (there is no evidence that any of these articles has ever been annulled)

A/P/A = Allegedly Partially Annulled under Arafat's 1/13/98 letter (there is no evidence that any of these articles has ever been partially annulled)

NC = No Change (there was never any claim that this provision was ever changed under Arafat's 1/13/1998 letter)

Article 1: A/P/A Palestine is the homeland of the Arab Palestinian people; it is an indivisible part of the Arab homeland, and the Palestinian people are an integral part of the Arab nation.

Article 2: A/P/A Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British Mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit.

Article 3: A/P/A The Palestinian Arab people possess the legal right to their homeland and have the right to determine their destiny after achieving the liberation of their country in accordance with their wishes and entirely of their own accord and will.

Article 4: A/P/A The Palestinian identity is a genuine, essential, and inherent characteristic; it is transmitted from parents to children. The Zionist occupation and the dispersal of the Palestinian Arab people, through the disasters which befell them, do not make them lose their Palestinian identity and their membership in the Palestinian community, nor do they negate them.

Article 5: A/P/A The Palestinians are those Arab nationals who, until 1947, normally resided in Palestine regardless of whether they were evicted from it or have stayed there. Anyone born, after that date, of a Palestinian father - whether inside Palestine or outside it - is also a Palestinian.

Article 6: A/A

Article 7: A/A

Article 8: A/A

Article 9: A/A

Article 10: A/A

Article 11: A/P/A The Palestinians will have three mottoes: national (wataniyya) unity, national (qawmiyya) mobilization, and liberation.

Article 12: A/P/A The Palestinian people believe in Arab unity. In order to contribute their share toward the attainment of that objective, however, they must, at the present stage of their struggle, safeguard their Palestinian identity and develop their consciousness of that identity, and oppose any plan that may dissolve or impair it.

Article 13: A/P/A Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine are two complementary objectives, the attainment of either of which facilitates the attainment of the other. Thus, Arab unity leads to the liberation of Palestine, the liberation of Palestine leads to Arab unity; and work toward the realization of one objective proceeds side by side with work toward the realization of the other.

Article 14: A/P/A The destiny of the Arab nation, and indeed Arab existence itself, depend upon the destiny of the Palestine cause. From this interdependence springs the Arab nation's pursuit of, and striving for, the liberation of Palestine. The people of Palestine play the role of the vanguard in the realization of this sacred (qawmi) goal.

Article 15: A/A

Article 16: A/P/A The liberation of Palestine, from a spiritual point of view, will provide the Holy Land with an atmosphere of safety and tranquility, which in turn will safeguard the country's religious sanctuaries and guarantee freedom of worship and of visit to all, without discrimination of race, color, language, or religion. Accordingly, the people of Palestine look to all spiritual forces in the world for support.

Article 17: A/P/A The liberation of Palestine, from a human point of view, will restore to the Palestinian individual his dignity, pride, and freedom. Accordingly the Palestinian Arab people look forward to the support of all those who believe in the dignity of man and his freedom in the world.

Article 18: A/P/A The liberation of Palestine, from an international point of view, is a defensive action necessitated by the demands of self-defense. Accordingly the Palestinian people, desirous as they are of the friendship of all people, look to freedom-loving, and peace-loving states for support in order to restore their legitimate rights in Palestine, to re-establish peace and security in the country, and to enable its people to exercise national sovereignty and freedom.

Article 19: A/A

Article 20: A/A

Article 21: A/A

Article 22: A/A

Article 23: A/A

Article 24: NC The Palestinian people believe in the principles of justice, freedom, sovereignty, self-determination, human dignity, and in the right of all peoples to exercise them.

Article 25: A/P/A For the realization of the goals of this Charter and its principles, the Palestine Liberation Organization will perform its role in the liberation of Palestine in accordance with the Constitution of this Organization.

Article 26: A/P/A The Palestine Liberation Organization, representative of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, is responsible for the Palestinian Arab people's movement in its struggle - to retrieve its homeland, liberate and return to it and exercise the right to self-determination in it - in all military, political, and financial fields and also for whatever may be required by the Palestine case on the inter-Arab and international levels.

Article 27: A/P/A The Palestine Liberation Organization shall cooperate with all Arab states, each according to its potentialities; and will adopt a neutral policy among them in the light of the requirements of the war of liberation; and on this basis it shall not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab state.

Article 28: NC The Palestinian Arab people assert the genuineness and independence of their national (wataniyya) revolution and reject all forms of intervention, trusteeship, and subordination.

Article 29: A/P/A The Palestinian people possess the fundamental and genuine legal right to liberate and retrieve their homeland. The Palestinian people determine their attitude toward all states and forces on the basis of the stands they adopt vis-a-vis to the Palestinian revolution to fulfill the aims of the Palestinian people.

Article 30: A/A

Article 31: NC The Organization shall have a flag, an oath of allegiance, and an anthem. All this shall be decided upon in accordance with a special regulation.

Article 32: NC Regulations, which shall be known as the Constitution of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, shall be annexed to this Charter. It will lay down the manner in which the Organization, and its organs and institutions, shall be constituted; the respective competence of each; and the requirements of its obligation under the Charter.

Article 33: NC This Charter shall not be amended save by [vote of] a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the National Congress of the Palestine Liberation Organization [taken] at a special session convened for that purpose.

A/A = Allegedly Annulled under Arafat's 1/13/98 letter (there is no evidence that any of these articles has ever been annulled)

A/P/A = Allegedly Partially Annulled under Arafat's 1/13/98 letter (there is no evidence that any of these articles has ever been partially annulled)

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April 25, 1996

P.L.O. ENDS CALL FOR DESTRUCTION OF JEWISH STATE

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

GAZA, April 24— Bowing to the insistent demands of Yasir Arafat, the main assembly of the Palestine Liberation Organization voted today to revoke the clauses in its 32-year-old charter that called for an armed struggle to destroy the Jewish state.

The vote came behind closed doors after two days of impassioned speeches at the first meeting of the Palestine National Council, the old Palestinian parliament-in-exile, inside Palestinian lands since Mr. Arafat began peace talks with Israel and gained control over portions of the West Bank and Gaza.

The vote was 504 in favor of amending the document and 54 against. Fourteen members abstained, and 97 of the 669 members of the council were absent, including members of radical movements who refused to attend any discussions on changing the charter.

The vote was well over the two-thirds required to amend the charter.

The vote, coming when Israeli-Palestinian relations are severely strained by suicide bombings and subsequent Israeli restrictions, and by the strife in Lebanon, testified to the central importance that Mr. Arafat and most Palestinian leaders place on continuing peace talks.

Younger delegates raised within Palestinian lands, who have placed great hopes on a peace, in particular viewed the vote as a victory over older, more militant exiles.

"It's a dream for us to be here and say 'enough is enough of the old style, it's time to face the new era,' " said Mufid Abu Rabbo, 39, a member of the new Palestinian legislature from Tulkarm, who spent many years in Israeli prisons.

Israel and the United States, which were both involved behind the scenes, hailed the vote.

"Ideologically it may be the most important change in the last hundred years," Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Israel Radio. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, arriving in Tel Aviv on the fifth day of shuttle diplomacy to stop the latest spasm of fighting in Lebanon, said, "It really is a historic milestone on the road to reconciliation and peace between the people of Israel and the Palestinians."

The tally was a major personal victory for Mr. Arafat, who had to convince a hall full of grizzled veterans of the armed struggle to make a gesture demanded by Israel just when Gaza is in the eighth week of crippling restrictions imposed after four suicide bombings, and when continuing Israeli raids into

Lebanon are causing deep resentment among Arabs.

In impassioned speeches on Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Arafat argued that failure by the Palestinians to live up to their commitments would give Israel a pretext to suspend the negotiating effort.

"Make up your minds!" he demanded on Tuesday. "Are we going to have a Palestinian dream or not? Are we going to have statehood or not? We don't want to go astray again. We don't want to begin again from less than zero."

Formally, the resolution adopted by the council consisted of two simple clauses. The first declared that the council "decides to amend the Palestinian National Covenant by canceling clauses which contradict the letters exchanged between the P.L.O. and the Israeli Government." The second ordered a new charter to be drafted within six months.

The formula was drawn up to satisfy the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed in Washington on Sept. 28, which declared that within two months of the inauguration of an elected legislative council, the P.L.O. would change its charter to comply with letters in which Mr. Arafat recognized the right of the state of Israel "to exist in peace and security," and renounced "the use of terrorism and other acts of violence."

In exchange, the Prime Minister at the time, the late Yitzhak Rabin, recognized the P.L.O. and agreed to open formal negotiations with it.

The plan to draft a new charter was intended to deflect criticism from frustrated Palestinians by implying that the P.L.O. had not discarded the option of drafting a tough new charter.

Though time and the Israeli-Palestinian agreements had rendered the charter largely obsolete, the formal revocation of the hostile clauses carried a great symbolic importance for Israelis. It was so important that Mr. Peres agreed to let some of the most notorious terrorists return to Palestinian lands to make it possible for Mr. Arafat to convene the entire Palestine National Council.

Among them was Mohammed Abbas, the mastermind of the Achille Lauro hijacking of 1985; Abu Daoud, who is believed to have taken part in the massacre of Olympic athletes in Munich in 1972, and Leila Khaled, a participant in two air hijackings. Mr. Abbas and Abu Daoud, both avowing that they were now all for peace, voted in favor of amending the charter, while Miss Khaled, still a firebrand, joined her comrades in the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in boycotting the debate.

The old covenant, adopted at the founding of the P.L.O. in 1964 and revised in 1968, reflected the times, and the violent and romantic Arab commitment to a death struggle with Israel, rich in denunciations of "Zionist occupation" and pledges of "armed liberation struggle."

Among the articles the Israelis wanted the Palestinians to negate was Article 10, which declared that "Fedayeen action," or guerrilla warfare, "forms the nucleus of the popular Palestinian war of liberation." Another, Article 15, declared that "The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national duty to repulse the Zionist, imperialist invasion from the great Arab homeland and to purge the Zionist presence from Palestine."

The Israelis reportedly wanted the council to revoke such declarations one by one, but Mr. Arafat ran up against strong resistance to acting too blatantly at Israel's behest. Many delegates wanted the covenant supplanted by either a new charter or by a "declaration of independence" that the P.L.O. adopted in 1988. This, in turn, was vehemently resisted by the Israelis.

The compromise, drafted by Mr. Arafat and his aides overnight, was a resolution that followed the letter of the Palestinian obligation under the September agreement, but did not spell out the changes. It also promised a new charter to come, which delegates said would include principles from the "declaration of independence," including a claim to Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.

Even so, the resolution met with some strong resistance. Among those who voted against it was Hanan Ashrawi, a lawyer from the West Bank well known as a spokeswoman for the Palestinians. "This will appear to be a succumbing to Israeli dictate," she said.

Others argued that the changes were not the result of Israeli pressure, but of duty. "We made this obligation three years ago, and we knew that one day we would have to take this step," said Muir Shreim, a member of the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations. "This is a strong message to the Israeli people that the Palestinian people chose the road to peace."

The message was one that both Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat very much wanted the Israelis to hear before the May 29 national election, to demonstrate to skeptical voters that the Labor Government's peace accords were indeed altering the agenda and methods of the Palestinians.

Since the suicide bombings of eight weeks ago, Mr. Arafat has also cracked down on Islamic militants in Gaza and the West Bank, and Mr. Peres said that all this confirmed the wisdom of his peace policy.

"He fights terror, he changed the covenant exactly as he pledged," Mr. Peres said of Mr. Arafat. "Both the fighting of terror and the changing of the covenant is a new development in the last 100 years."

In response, Mr. Peres was expected to go ahead with the withdrawal from Hebron, the last West Bank city from which Israel agreed last September to pull out. The withdrawal was suspended after the suicide bombing attacks eight weeks ago.

Mr. Peres's Labor party is also expected to revoke from its platform its formal opposition to the formation of a Palestinian state.

The actions on both sides clear the way for the start of the next and final phase of negotiations, the "final settlement" talks that are to take on the most difficult issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, the future of Israeli settlements in Palestinian lands, and water resources.

Under existing agreements, the next round of talks is supposed to open on May 7. Their direction, however, will not be determined until the victor of the election is known.

Photo: Yasir Arafat voting yesterday to change the Palestinian charter. (Agence France-Presse)

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NATIONS****A**

General Assembly

A/52/995
28 July 1998

Fifty-second session

Agenda item 37

The situation in the Middle East

**Letter dated 27 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Palestinian National Covenant is the founding charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), delineating the organizations stated aims and goals. Almost all of the articles in the Covenant explicitly or implicitly deny Israel's right to exist and reject any peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. For example, article 19 states, "the establishment of Israel is fundamentally null and void, whatever time has elapsed ...", while article 15 calls for "the liquidation of the Zionist presence in Palestine". Article 22 again asserts that "the liberation of Palestine will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence and will contribute to the establishment of peace in the Middle East ...".

The Covenant also denies the existence of the Jewish people as a nation and any ties that it might have to the Land of Israel (article 20): "Nor do Jews constitute a single nation". It declares that "armed struggle is the *only* [emphasis added] way to liberate Palestine" (article 9). There is no question that the Palestinian National Covenant calls for politicide: the destruction of the State of Israel.

For this reason, all Israeli Governments have insisted on the revision of the Palestinian National Covenant as a fundamental requirement in any process of mutual recognition and reconciliation between Israel and the PLO. On 9 September 1993, in his exchange of letters with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat affirmed in the name of the PLO that those articles of the Covenant which deny Israel's right

to exist (and were inconsistent with the PLOs new commitments) were inoperative and no longer valid. Mr. Arafat, moreover, made a commitment to submit the necessary changes in the Covenant to the Palestinian National Council (PNC) for formal approval.

The PLO reaffirmed this commitment again on 4 May 1994 in the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area. The PLO reaffirmed this commitment, yet another time, on 28 September 1995 with the signing of the "Oslo II" Interim Agreement.

On 24 April 1996, the Palestinian National Council (PNC) convened in Gaza and adopted a resolution concerning the Covenant by a vote of 504 to 54 with 14 abstentions. Translated from the Arabic, the text of the resolution read as follows:

"It has been decided upon:

1. Amending the National Charter by cancelling the articles that are contrary to the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Government of Israel, on 9 and 10 September 1993.
2. The empowerment of a legal committee with the task of redrafting the National Charter. The Charter will be presented to the first meeting of the Central Council."

The pivotal problem with the PNC resolution is that it did not change the Covenant. While the PNC declared its readiness in principle to change the document, the only practical step taken was the empowerment of a legal committee to draft a new Covenant for presentation at a future date. Two days before the PNC meeting, Mr. Arafats deputy, Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen), informed the Israeli Government that an unambiguous revision of the Covenant would not be approved by the PNC. Therefore, the PNC resolution that was ultimately drafted was intentionally vague.

Since the Covenant is a legally binding document, declaring a willingness to alter it does not amount to amending it. No changes were adopted and implemented by the PNC, nor was there any specific mention of articles to be amended. While Israeli and American spokesmen were hopeful at the time that, despite this ambiguity, the Palestinian National Covenant had at last been changed, subsequent statements by Palestinian spokesmen confirmed that, in fact, no revision had been made.

At the time of the vote, senior PLO officials acknowledged that the Covenant had not been changed. PLO Executive Committee member Sakhr Habash said, "the text of the charter remains as it is since it has not been amended yet. Therefore, it is frozen, not cancelled." (*An-Nahar*, 5 May 1996). An internal report published shortly after the PNC vote by the Research and Thought Department of the Fatah Organization (Fatah Publication Number 8, Nissan 1996) contained a similar determination. The report stated, "The text of the Palestinian National Covenant remains as

it was and no changes *whatsoever* [emphasis added] were made to it. This has caused it to be frozen, but not annulled".

The PNC itself failed to make any mention of changing the Covenant in its closing statement at the end of its session, on 25 April 1996. The PNC did publish a concluding document summarizing its activity, which included 19 specific resolutions and decisions on subjects ranging from Jerusalem to Israeli settlements. But it contained no reference to any decision to amend the Covenant (*Al-Quds*, 26 April 1996; *Voice of Palestine*, 26 April 1996).

Less than a month after the PNC vote, PNC Chairman Selim Zaanoun asserted that the Covenant had been amended but added that "no specific articles" were cancelled (*An-Nahar*, 16 May 1996). In an interview on 22 January 1998, Faisal Hamdi Husseini, head of the PNC's legal committee, said "The change has not yet been carried out."

In the Note for the Record, which accompanied the 15 January 1997 Hebron Protocol, the PLO made an explicit commitment to "Complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter". This was an open acknowledgement that, until that point, it had failed to change the Covenant, for otherwise there would be no need to "complete the process" of revising it. This was the *fourth* time the PLO undertook to revise the Covenant since the beginning of the Oslo process.

It should be added that Chairman Arafat committed himself to the Note for the Record, which was also signed by United States Ambassador Dennis Ross on behalf of the United States of America. That agreement included an explicit commitment to the principle of reciprocity: Israel would not be expected to implement its commitments if the PLO did not fulfil its pledges, including its pledge to revise the Covenant.

Article 33 of the Covenant states that the only body empowered to change the document is the Palestinian National Covenant (PNC) and that such changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the PNC in a special session. Thus, Chairman Arafat's recent letters on the subject to world leaders, like President Clinton or Prime Minister Blair, are insufficient. Under the procedure outlined by the Covenant itself, Chairman Arafat's letters have no legal bearing on the text of the document. Therefore, the PLO's obligation to convene the PNC in order to amend the Covenant remains unfulfilled.

As the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a speech to the Knesset on 5 October 1995, at the time of the ratification of the "Oslo II" Interim Agreement: "The Palestinian Authority has not up until now honoured its commitment to change the Palestinian Covenant ... I view these changes as a supreme test of the Palestinian Authority's willingness and ability, and the changes required will be an important and serious touchstone vis-à-vis the continued implementation of the agreement as a whole".

Given all the contradictory statements that have been made by mainstream Palestinian officials about the Covenant, Israel must be insistent that this change be carried out in a clear-cut and indisputable manner. No nation can agree to make itself more vulnerable, in a negotiating process, when its negotiating partner remains ambiguous about whether it still intends to wage a war of destruction.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37 entitled "The Situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Ambassador Dore **Gold**
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

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PMIW

Palestinian Media Watch

If you would like to know what the Palestinian leaders are saying in Arabic, in their newspapers, TV, and Friday sermons, etc., translated for you into English by PMW, please type Palestinian Media Watch, into your computer, and you will receive an education at no charge.

Israel must be ready for a third intifada

There are theories being advocated that if the Palestinians and the Israelis do not meet soon, a third intifada will commence. Another part of this theory is that Israel will be responsible for this outbreak.

Any reasonable analysis of intifadas one and two would compel an objective observer of the Middle East to unequivocally arrive at a conclusion that both intifadas were state-sponsored insurrections, rather than street combustions. The previous intifadas have been used and orchestrated by the Palestinian leadership as a violent negotiating tactic. Israel should be well prepared militarily and verbally to protect itself against this warlike stratagem.

If the Palestinian leadership uses these kinds of violent tactics before they have a state, after they have a state it would be many times worse.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

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William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

To Peace Now: Confusing You with the Facts

Reading this just might make some of our leftist organizations think again. And if not, at least they will have the facts before them.

William K. Langfan, 8/12/2012, כ"ד באב תשע"ב

The Palestinian Daily newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on July 10, 2012 published an op-ed which commemorated the 48th anniversary of the founding of the PLO in 1964.

Al- Barghouti, the editor claimed that Fatah which is the main movement of the PLO would continue to champion the Palestinian cause until that cause was realized and that the Palestinians would never tire in their attempts to obtain an independent state.

Two days later Barghouti wrote: "Netanyahu said that the Palestinians want Haifa and Jaffa, not the West Bank. [AND] Why not? Is anything left of the West Bank?" (MEMRI Dispatch 4867, Aug. 6, 2012)

Barghouti did not mention that the PLO Charter (Covenant) was created with the founding of the PLO in 1964 when Israel was within her 1967 borders. The "cause" to which Barghouti referred was the elimination of Israel as clearly stated in this 1964 Charter.

If Advocates of "Peace Now" and "Return to 1967 borders" would read the 1964 Charter and the amended 1968 charter in conjunction with the above Op-Eds, they might have second thoughts about their position. Both Charters are readily available on the internet. I have listed below excerpts from the 1964 and 1968 PLO Charters.

Article 2 of the 1964 Charter states: Palestine with its boundaries at the time of the British Mandate is a regional indivisible unit."

Article 17: "The Partitioning of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of Israel are illegal and false. . ."

Article 18: The Balfour Declaration, the mandate system and all that has been based upon them are considered fraud. . ."

Article 14: . . . "The Arab Nation must mobilize its military, spiritual and material potentates . . . and place at its disposal all opportunities and means to enable their roles in liberating their homeland"."

Article 10 (amended 1968 Charter): "Commando action constitutes the nucleus of the Palestinian popular liberation war. . ."

Article 29 of the 1964 Charter and Article 33 of the 1968 Amended stated that the Charter can not be amended unless 2/3 of the members vote for a change.

NO AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER HAS EVER OCCURRED.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

September 5, 2012

Palestinian Intentions

The Palestinian Daily newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida on July 10 published an op-ed commemorating the 48th anniversary of the founding of the PLO in 1964. Al- Barghouti, the editor, declared that Fatah, which is the main movement of the PLO, would continue to champion the Palestinian cause until that cause was realized and that the Palestinians would never tire in their attempts to obtain an independent state.

Barghouti did not mention that the PLO Charter was created with the founding of the PLO in 1964 when Israel was within its pre-June 1967 borders. The “cause” to which Barghouti referred was the elimination of Israel as clearly stated in this 1964 Charter.

If advocates of returning to the 1967 borders would read the 1964 Charter and the amended 1968 charter in conjunction with the above-mentioned op-ed, they might have second thoughts about their position. Both Charters are readily available online. The following are excerpts from the 1964 and 1968 PLO Charters:

Article 2 of the 1964 Charter states: “Palestine with its boundaries at the time of the British Mandate is a regional indivisible unit.”

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Article 10 (amended 1968 Charter): “Commando action constitutes the nucleus of the Palestinian popular liberation war...”

Article 29 of the 1964 Charter and Article 33 of the 1968 amended charter state that the Charter cannot be amended without a two-thirds vote for a change.

No amendment of the Charter has ever occurred.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

October 24, 2012

Liberal Christian Hypocrisy

I don't know what alleged specific accusations of human rights violations the fifteen leaders of the Christian churches are referring to in their calls for Congress to reconsider U.S. aid to Israel ("Liberal Protestants Show Their True Colors," editorial, Oct. 19).

Are these leaders aware that there are three formal documents from the three main umbrella Palestinian groups of Fatah, the PLO, and Hamas, all calling for the destruction of Israel?

Are the ministers aware that there were more annual Israeli civilian deaths from Palestinian terrorism after the Oslo "peace" agreements than in the 50 years before the supposed peace agreements were signed? The wall the Israelis built to protect themselves from Palestinian suicide bombers isn't the obstacle to peace. The obstacles to peace are the Palestinian suicide bombers themselves, and a Palestinian leadership that supports and glorifies the Palestinian suicide bombers by naming squares and parks after them.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

Christian Leaders Off Base

November 1, 2012

By William K. Langfan

I don't know what alleged specific accusations of human rights violations the 15 leaders of the Christian churches are referring to in their calls for Congress to reconsider U.S. aid to Israel ("Jewish-Presbyterian Split Widens Over Israel Letter," Oct. 19).

Are these leaders aware that there are three formal documents from the three main umbrella Palestinian groups of Fatah, the PLO and Hamas, and all call for the destruction of Israel?

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Palm Beach, Fla.

<http://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/christian-leaders-off-base/>

Christian-Jewish Tensions Over Israel

Tue, 11/13/2012
William K. Langfan

I don't know what alleged specific accusations of human rights violations the 15 leaders of the Christian churches are referring to in their calls for Congress to reconsider U.S. aid to Israel ("Jewish-Presbyterian Split Widens Over Israel Letter," Oct. 19).

Are these leaders aware that there are three formal documents from the three main umbrella Palestinian groups of Fatah, the PLO and Hamas, and all call for the destruction of Israel?

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Palm Beach, Fla.

<http://www.thejewishweek.com/editorial-opinion/letters/christian-jewish-tensions-over-israel>



Israel vs. Hamas — and the Role of the US

Last Updated: 12:06 AM, November 21, 2012

Posted: 10:42 PM, November 20, 2012

The Issue: The week-long attacks and counterattacks between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza.

The US, Great Britain and Russia all requested that Israel use “restraint.”

I have a simple question for each: If there was a Mexican equivalent of Hamas firing missiles into the US, would our reaction be restraint? If there was a group firing missiles into London, would England restrain herself?

If the Chechen Republic was firing rockets at the Kremlin, would President Vladimir Putin follow that advice?

The answers are all self-evident.

All of the countries would uproot the terrorists firing the rockets.

Would any of these countries be asking each other to restrain themselves?

William Langfan
Palm Beach, Fla.

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/letters/israel_vs_hamas_and_the_role_of_3vzAnkPYpcFiUmw1Qr9rMK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 21, 2012

About That 'Restraint'...

The United States, Great Britain, and Russia all request Israeli "restraint."

I have a simple question for each:

If there were a Mexi Hamas firing missiles into the United States, would our reaction be restraint?

If there were a Scotchi Hamas firing missiles into London, would England restrain itself?

If the Chechens were firing rockets into the Kremlin, would Putin counsel restraint?

The answers are all self-evident.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

Letters to THE EDITOR

Wednesday, 21 November 2012 20:01 By JV Staff

Israel War on Gaza

Dear Jewish Voice Editor,

The United States, Great Britain, and Russia all request Israel's "restraint" in their current war of defense against continued missile attacks from Hamas-controlled Gaza.

I have a simple question for each:

If there were a MexiHamas firing missiles into the United States, would our reaction be "restraint"?

If there were a ScotchiHamas firing missiles into London, would England "restrain" herself?

If the Chechens were firing rockets into the Kremlin, would Putin utilize restraint?

Would either of these countries be asking each other to restrain themselves?

The answers are all self-evident.

Best regards,

William K. Langfan

Palm Beach, Florida

http://www.jewishvoiceny.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2416:letters-to-the-editor&catid=101:jv-editorial&Itemid=284

YOUR VIEWS LETTERS@PBPOST.COM

READERS RESPOND: WHO CAUSED ISRAEL

Israel needs show of suppo

The opponents in the Hamas-Israel conflict need a reason to negotiate, now that there is a cease-fire. Israel can be there, now that the attacks from Gaza are supposed to stop. One convincing method is to show a trump card to the opposition.

President Barack Obama could make a worldwide show of sending an immense shipment of war material to Israel. The instigators would see just how much they face. At the very least, they would begin to re-think their own position. Without our having to get directly involved in the fight, we might accomplish several strategic objectives.

Hamas would know that the U.S. supports Israel with more than just words. Iran would see that our actions follow our words. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt would know exactly what we are able to do.

The game of chess has been likened to war. This is the opposite of a chess gambit, in which some material is sacrificed to gain greater material or positional advantage. It's the equivalent of adding major material to the board — significantly changing the final outcome. Whoa. That's against the rules. But the first rule of war is that there are no rules.

EDWARD S. YONKERS
Jupiter

No country would ignore provocation

Hamas is a terrorist organization that controls Gaza and all that goes on there. Its sworn goal is to destroy Israel, a legitimate state created by the United Nations, and also all Jews who live elsewhere in the world.

Hamas, which controls whatever goes on in Gaza, has been firing rockets at Israeli civilians for several years — several hundred in the last two years before this outbreak. Hamas has fired the rockets to farther reaches in Israel. It is able to do this because it smuggles in arms through tunnels to Egypt.

No country would allow its citizens to be constantly bombarded without reacting. When Israel reacts, Hamas blames Israel for all the damage and loss of life.

Hamas fires rockets at civilians. Israel tries to avoid civilian targets, going so far as to warn residents. Hamas will continue firing rockets at Israel, hoping to bring a response from the world that is sympathetic to the mounting death toll. Hamas knows that the way to stop the Israeli response is to stop the provocation.

BELLE NESSLER
Greenacres

Don't ask Israel to show restraint

The United States, Great Britain and Russia all request Israel "restraint" in responding to rocket attacks by Hamas. I have a simple question for each:

If there were a Mexican Hamas firing missiles into the United States, would our reaction be "restraint"? If there were a Scotch Hamas firing missiles into London, would England "restrain" herself? As for Russia, if the Chechens were firing rockets into the Kremlin, would Vladimir Putin follow the advice of "restraint"?

The answers are all

In face of rocket attack, would U.S. be restrained?

self-evident. All of the countries would uproot the terrorists firing the rockets. Would either of these countries be asking each other to restrain themselves?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

Hamas creates propaganda ploy

The Palestinians have fired more than 1,000 rockets into Israel. Didn't the Palestinians know that Israel would retaliate eventually? When Israel's actions were inevitable, why didn't the Palestinians, who had some idea of what Israeli targets would be, evacuate their innocent civilians?

Answer: Because they knew that with Israel's superior firepower, there would be great devastation. This is exactly what Hamas wanted. Why?

As usual, the media only reacted to the destruction when Gaza was the target, giving Hamas and the Palestinians the perfect tool, world opinion. It is only now that the media is emphasizing Hamas' role in the propaganda ploy. Still, Israel is being called on to make the compromises.

The propaganda weapon Hamas uses is only as good as the media allows it to be. The media, as usual, played into the scenario perfectly, and are allowing Israel to be blackmailed by force.

MARILYN GINSBURG
Lake Worth

Critics often act on anti-Semitism

The fact that the letter "Reactions suggest Israel can't be criticized" was published in The Palm Beach Post is testament to the fact that all views of the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict are not "settled" in the U.S. media.

That being said, when criticism is based on factual, demographic or biblical misrepresentations or misstatements, the criticism of Israel is unfair and often a mask for anti-Semitism. Not all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic, but when anti-Semitic expressions appear in the media cloaked as "criticism" of Israel, they should be pointed out and publicly condemned.

STEVEN L. DANIELS
West Palm Beach

Editor's note: Steven L. Daniels is Florida regional chair of the Anti-Defamation League.

All Jewish people are under attack

Regarding Israel's response to rockets from Gaza: The days of annihilating the Jewish people are over.

The bitter lesson was learned in World War II, when no one came to our rescue, and the world was silent while millions of us died. We learned that we have to defend ourselves against all who want to destroy us. The Israelis are under fire, but make no mistake: All Jewish people are involved.

Without Israel, none of us are as safe as we are. Had there been an Israel during World War II, I, who survived with very few members of my family, would have some rela-

The Palm Beach Post

By Post readers

Submissions from Post readers

Posted: 3:00 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012

Any facts to support Palestinian change of heart?

Regarding The Palm Beach Post's latest negative Israeli viewpoint ("Netanyahu's recklessness.") the letters to the editor in Monday's paper properly were critical of The Post's position. I would like The Post to answer one question for its readers:

What facts, not opinions, can The Post produce that would lead an objective observer of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to conclude that there has been a major change since the 1964 Palestinian mindset to destroy Israel, as clearly stated in its charter, when Israel was within the approximate area which was allocated to her by the United Nations?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion/letters-israel-isolated-because-aid-has-made-country-fortress/viJjimaB9mvTGNtnSbqFrO/>

Palestinian aims have not altered

Regarding The Palm Beach Post's latest negative Israeli viewpoint ("Netanyahu's recklessness"), the letters to the editor in Monday's paper properly were critical of The Post's position. I would like The Post to answer one question for its readers:

What facts, not opinions, can The Post produce that would lead an objective observer of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to conclude that there has been a major change since the 1964 Palestinian mind-set to destroy Israel, as clearly stated in its charter, when Israel was within the approximate area which was allocated to her by the United Nations?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

How Could Cong. Bnai Jeshurun Support Abbas' UN Move?

A response to the letter Bnai Jeshurun leaders sent to their congregants expressing their joy at the UN vote giving the PA non-member status.

כ"ט בכסלו תשע"ג, 12/13/2012, William K. Langfan

Last Friday, the B'nai Jeshurun Synagogue on Manhattan's Upper West Side, not affiliated with any established Jewish sector, but similar in observance to the Reform movement, sent an email to its congregation, congratulating them on the United Nations General Assembly vote to give the Palestinian Authority non-member status.

The letter was signed by the congregation's clergymen J. Rolando Matalon, Marcelo R. Bronstein and Felicia L. Sol and by the president of the board of directors and its executive director.

The email called the vote a historic moment comparable to the angel's calling Jacob by the new nation-name Israel and to the November 29, 1947 UN partition plan that led to the establishment of the state of Israel.

"The vote at the UN yesterday is a great moment for us as citizens of the world. This is an opportunity to celebrate the process that allows a nation to come forward and ask for recognition. Having gained independence ourselves in this way, we are especially conscious of this. Every people has the right to recognition..."

The *New York Times* printed several reactions of congregants to the e-mail, which the congregation's leadership continued to stand behind, despite criticism.

Allan Ripp, a member, said he and his wife were appalled, wrote the *Times*. "We are just sort of in a state of shock," he said. "It's not as if we don't support a two-state solution, but to say with such a warm embrace — it is like a high-five to the P.L.O., and that has left us numb."

"It's very shocking to many of the congregants that this position was taken publicly and this e-mail was sent around," said Eve Birnbaum, a member of the congregation. "I am very dismayed, as a longstanding member of the synagogue, that the rabbis and the board would take a position that is contrary to what many of us feel."

"I thought it was very courageous of them," said Gil Kulick, another congregant quoted in the *Times*. "I think as of late there has been a reluctance to speak out on this issue," he added, "and that's why I was really delighted that they chose to take a strong unequivocal stand."

The United Nations' vote was strongly opposed by the governments of the United States and Israel, as well as by the leadership of many American Jewish organizations, as it is a circumvention of the possibility to negotiate for an end to the conflict - let alone try for peace - and shows the intent to define borders and a state that is an enemy entity by definition. It is in clear contradiction to the terms of the signed Oslo Agreements.

The following is the open letter I sent to the congregation and its members:

Dear Rabbis Matalon, Bronstein, Sol, and Board of Directors:

The Rabbis and congregation at B'Nai Jeshurun Synagogue have the right to say and do anything that they desire.

I suggest that they read, study and understand the following Palestinian documents and then determine if they still have their opinions as expressed in the December 5th *NY Times*.

1. The 1964 PLO Charter (three years before Israel took control of the 'West Bank')
2. The 1968 Amended PLO Charter which has never been changed irrespective of the fact that Arafat and the PLO stated that it has been modified.
3. The Palestinian National Council (PNC) 1974 Resolution (especially Clause two).
4. The Last Sentence of Arafat's September 1993 letter to PM Rabin in conjunction with Clause 33 of the 1968 PLO Charter.
5. Chairman Za'anoun speech delivered before the PNC vote.
6. The April 1996 Palestinian National Council Resolution and Vote.
7. Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton. (There is no record that the PNC ever voted for the specific annulments alleged by Arafat in this letter.)

The PLO Charter and the Fatah both call for the destruction of Israel. The Hamas 1988 Charter not only calls for the destruction of Israel, it also advocates killing Jews. The writer will provide the Fatah Constitution and the Hamas Charter to the Synagogue upon request.

Enclosed are the following:

1. 1964 PLO Charter
2. 1968 PLO Charter
3. 1974 PNC Resolution.
4. 1993 Arafat letter to PM Rabin
5. 1996 Chairman Za'Noon speech before the 1996 PNC vote.
6. 1996 PNC Resolution
7. 1996 Israeli Foreign Ministry Communication re the 1996 PNC Vote
8. 1998 Arafat letter to President Clinton.
9. December 14, 1998 – There is no written record of the vote of the ministers of various Palestinians who approved by a raised arm vote to reaffirm the content of Arafat's letter to President Clinton.
10. Israeli deaths from Palestinian terrorism.

Please note after the December 14, 1998 Palestinian Minister's vote for peace, that Israeli deaths before the wall was built from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 2009 exceeded the average annual Israeli civilian deaths from January 1, 1949 through December 31, 1998 by four times. (The non-'peace' years.)

The writer will meet with any authorized synagogue group at any time.

Best regards,
William K. Langfan, Attorney (ret.)

2100 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD, #501N, PALM BEACH, FL 33480,
Email: Mapmun@aol.com

“

The Palm Beach Post

LETTERS: U.S. should make a show of force for Hamas, Iran

Submissions from Post readers

Posted Dec 14, 2012

Wrong to ask Israel to show restraint

The United States, Great Britain and Russia all request Israel “restraint” in responding to rocket attacks by Hamas. I have a simple question for each:

If there were a Mexican Hamas firing missiles into the United States, would our reaction be

“restraint?” If there were a Scotch Hamas firing missiles into London, would England “restrain” herself? As for Russia, if the Chechens were firing rockets into the Kremlin, would Vladimir Putin follow the advice of “restraint?”

The answers are all self-evident. All of the countries would uproot the terrorists firing the rockets. Would either of these countries be asking each other to restrain themselves?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion/letters-should-make-show-force-for-hamas-iran/HAzuJwYnNITnd05rzpW7uJ/>

Palestinians still want to eliminate Israel

I would like the people who advocate for Israel's return to 1967 borders to present one fact, not empty rhetoric or opinions, to sustain their position.

Has the Palestinian media changed? Have the Friday sermons changed? Have the Palestinian leadership pronouncements in Arabic denouncing Zionism changed? Has the concept born in the Palestinian National Council's 1974 resolution to eliminate Israel in "phases" changed? Has the often repeated "Palestine is everything from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean" changed?

The indisputable facts are that the Palestinian Liberation Organization was created in 1964 with a charter that unequivocally declares that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void (charter clauses 17 and 18) and that all means should be employed until Palestine is liberated; i.e. Israel is destroyed (charter clause 14).

Israel was within her 1967 borders in 1964. Egypt controlled Gaza, Jordan controlled the West Bank, and East Jerusalem was specifically excluded from the PLO liberation of Palestine (clause 24 of the 1964 charter.) The only possible explanation of the charter's "liberation of Palestine" was the elimination of Israel.

Finally, I repeat my offer of \$100,000 — with \$25,000 to be paid to each of two American and two Israeli veteran charities — if anyone can produce a valid Palestinian charter with the specific clauses eliminated and modified pursuant to Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton.

William K. Langfan, Palm Beach

The Washington Times

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: No peace without charter change

The Washington Times
Thursday, January 3, 2013

Peace is a condition of harmony between nations and their people with no threats of acts of war or terrorism.

The people of Luxembourg, Lichtenstein, Monaco and Switzerland, for example, live their lives without fears of jihad or terrorism. Would a peace agreement between Israel and any Palestinian entity produce peace such as the tranquility that exists in these European nations?

The Oslo agreement was an attempt to achieve this serenity, with the concept of Israel relinquishing control of segments of land for peace with the Palestinians. Unfortunately, in the Palestinian leadership the images of jihad, martyrdom and terrorism — the exact antitheses of peace — have not diminished one iota.

Furthermore, Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leaders bamboozled President Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into believing that they annulled the onerous Palestinian Liberation Organization charter clauses declaring that the establishment of Israel was illegal and void, and that the Palestinians would engage in armed resistance until Israel was destroyed. Not one word of the PLO charter, which the Palestinians consider their junior Koran, has ever been changed.

Until the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinians completely and properly annul the PLO charter, the Fatah Constitution, the Hamas Charter and the concepts of jihad, martyrdom and terrorism, Israel should not consider any meeting with the Palestinian leadership.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach, Fla.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/3/no-peace-without-charter-change/>



The PLO Charter Amendment That Never Was

They seem to have fooled the world. If you read this, they will not have fooled you anymore.

Introduction

The "Peace Process" which began with the Declaration of Principles (DOP) in 1993 and continued with the Oslo Accords was actually an Israeli divestiture of land in exchange for promises of peace from the Palestinian [*sic*] leadership.

One of the major and probably the most important Palestinian obligation in the "Peace Process" was a promise to annul the onerous clauses of their formal original 29 clause 1964 Charter (the "Charter") (</documents/palestinian-national-charter.php>) which was amended into a 33 clause charter in 1968 after the 1967 War.

The importance of the Charter to the Palestinians can not be exaggerated. To the Palestinians, it is virtually their "Junior Koran." These clauses in the Charter, in sum, declared the establishment of Israel illegal and void and called for armed resistance until Palestine [*sic*] was liberated.

It is the opinion of the writer, predicated upon the facts which follow, that not one word of the Charter has ever been changed. Arafat and the subsequent Palestinian leadership instituted a series of steps to indicate that the Charter had been changed; however, there is not one shred of evidence that any change has ever occurred.

Palestinian Charter Amendment Requirements

Clause 33 of the Charter as amended in 1968 specifically states that there can be no change to the Charter unless 2/3's of the full membership of the Palestinian National Council and such a vote can only be made in a meeting specially noticed for an amendment change.

Arafat's 1993 Letter to Rabin

Arafat wrote a magnificent letter (</documents/amendment-to-the-palestinian-national-charter.php>) to PM Rabin in September 1993 days before the signing of the Oslo Accords. In the letter, Arafat stated that the "clauses in the Charter which are contrary to what I have stated in this letter are either no longer operative or will be nullified." Critically, Arafat's 1993 letter ended with the sentence that the "letter will be presented to the PNC (the Palestinian Council) for their formal approval." In other words, all of Arafat's peaceful statements in his 1993 letter were "subject to" the PNC formal approval pursuant to Clause 33 of the Charter.

PNC 1996 Vote and Resolution

The PNC finally did meet in April 1996 and did vote for a two clause resolution (</documents/amendment-to-the-palestinian-national-charter.php>) after a speech by the PNC Chairman Zanon. Zanon's speech (<http://www.marklangfan.com/4-alzaanoonspeech.html>) clearly stated that "we have to do something at the lowest possible price-if we amend, it will mean that we have paid a very high price- if we prepare a new charter it will be less challenging- the resolution which we have drafted gives us 6 months until the Palestinian Central Council meets. They can say, we leave it for the National Council...."

Clause 1 of the Resolution states that the PNC decides "amending the Palestinian National Charter and cancelling the Charter's articles opposing the exchanged letters between the PLO and the Israeli Government on September 9th and 10th, 1993. Clause 2 of the resolution states that a legal committee would be formed to draft a new Charter.

If we combine the Zanon pre-vote speech with the 2 clause resolution that was actually voted on, plus the fact that there is no record of a legal committee ever being formed, and there is no record that a redrafting of the Charter ever occurred, no reasonably objective person could arrive at a conclusion that there was a change in the Charter up to this point.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 1996 issued a communication (</documents/amending-the-plo-covenant-an-unfulfilled-commitment.php>) which stated that the PLO had failed to amend the Charter's clauses no later than May 7, 1996. It further stated that "By leaving the Covenant (the Charter) intact, the PLO sends a clear message that it has not renounced violence nor accepted Israel's right to exist."

Arafat's 1998 Letter to President Clinton

There is no record that anything pertaining to the Charter ever occurred from October 1996 until Arafat wrote a letter to President Clinton (</documents/letter-from-yassar-arafat-to-president-clinton-plo-charter.php>) in January 1998. Arafat declared in this 1998 letter that questions have been raised pertaining to the legal effect of the April 1996 PNC action. Arafat then stated "we would like to put to rest these concerns." In accordance with Article 33 of the Charter, the 1996 PNC Resolution is a comprehensive amendment of the Covenant. All of the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the PLO commitment to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel are no longer in effect.

As a result, articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 have been nullified and parts of articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-7. And 29 that are inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments have also been nullified.

Arafat ended his letter: I can assure on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian Authority that all the provisions of the Covenant that were inconsistent with the above mentioned commitments of September 9/10, 1993) to Prime Minister Rabin, have been nullified.

Arafat stated that specific clauses were annulled in the 1996 Resolution.

Can anyone reasonably arrive at a conclusion that a statement from Arafat that the 1996 PNC vote for the Resolution annulled the specific clauses enumerated in Arafat's letter to President Clinton when there is not one fact that could sustain Arafat's allegations?

On the contrary, the 1996 resolution itself specifically appointed a legal committee to draft unspecified actual changes to the Charter in the future which unequivocally means that no actual changes took place at the 1996 vote.

Various Palestinian reaffirmations of Arafat's 1998 letter to President Clinton

The following series of events occurred in December 1998 which were reaffirmations of the contents of Arafat's letter to President Clinton:

1. Dec. 7, 1998, the Executive Committee of the PLO reaffirmed the letter of Arafat to President Clinton.
2. Dec. 10, 1998, the Central Committee of the PLO met and reaffirmed the Arafat letter.
3. Dec. 14, 1998 all the Palestinian leaders of all the Palestinian ministries met and reaffirmed the Peace Process, and reaffirmed the actions of the executive Committee and the Central Committee pertaining to the Charter.

Enclosed is the summary of the decisions and actions pertaining to the Palestinian National Charter as currently posted by the Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations. This summary conveniently omitted from the second clause of the 1996 PNC resolution, the words "which will be presented to the PCC during its first meeting." There is no evidence that this PCC "first" meeting ever took place. Similarly, there is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed nor is there any evidence that a redrafting of the Charter has ever occurred.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Arafat's "subject to" letter to Rabin, the inconclusive Clause 1 of the April 1996 PNC resolution, Arafat's letter to President Clinton, and the three Dec. 1998 votes reaffirming Arafat's letter to President Clinton are the total evidence that the specifically enumerated clauses of the Charter have been annulled or partially annulled.

The evidence that there has never been one word changed in the Charter is as follows:

1. There is not one document that has ever surfaced to support the claim any change in the Charter has ever occurred.
2. PNC Chairman's Zanoun's pre-vote speech specifically stated that no amendment was contemplated and that there was to be a redrafting of the new charter. There is no evidence that a redrafted charter is in existence.
3. There is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed pursuant to Clause 2 of the April 1996 PNC resolution and no evidence of a new charter (see link to PNC website at end of article.).
4. Three Dec. 1998 reaffirmations of Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton which stated that the consequence of the April 1996 resolution, for which a vast majority of the PNC voted, was an annulment of the specifically enumerated clauses and partial annulments of the other enumerated clauses was an Arafat allegation that never happened. An affirmation of something that never happened does not convert an event that never occurred into an event that happened. Thus, all of those reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to President Clinton were reaffirmations of nothing. (A reaffirmation of a legally defective charter amendment, does not legally convert the legally defective amendment into a legally effective charter amendment.) (A reaffirmation of a fictional false event, doesn't make the fictional false event any more factual or true.) If there were a real intention on the part of the Palestinian leadership to annul any part of the Charter, all they had to do was to have the Palestinian National Council vote specifically to annul each clause as Arafat alleged in his letter.


Facts speak louder than words. The years following the December 14, 1998 Palestinian leaders vote by raising their arms to vote "reaffirming peace," resulted in the greatest amount of Israeli civilian casualties per year since the 1949 armistice. (see link at end of article) The average Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism from January 1999 through December 31, 2009 was 108 versus 28 annual Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism from 1949 through December 31, 1998. If the wall had not been built, the total Israeli deaths would have been much higher.

The result of the "Peace Process" as of this moment is: Palestinians now control land which they have never controlled in recorded history; Hamas control of Gaza; more Israeli civilian deaths from terrorism than ever before; the same PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction which has never been modified; plus a Fatah constitution and a Hamas charter, both of which call for Israel's destruction, and a Palestinian leadership mindset to destroy Israel which has not changed one iota.

[William K. Langfan (<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Author.aspx/1033>) | Published: February 28, 2013]

Related Articles

- Amendment to the Palestinian National Charter with Commentary (</documents/amendment-to-the-palestinian-national-charter.php>)
- Amending the PLO Covenant: An Unfulfilled Commitment (</documents/amending-the-plo-covenant-an-unfulfilled-commitment.php>)
- Letter From Yassar Arafat to US President Clinton (</documents/letter-from-yassar-arafat-to-president-clinton-plo-charter.php>)

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Peace 'expert' can't show amended charter

By **WILLIAM K. LANGFAN**
Special to the Daily News

The *Shiny Sheet*, in its Feb. 20th edition, referred to Dennis Ross as an expert who played a leading role for more than 12 years in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process.

An expert is defined as a person who is very skillful and has much training and knowledge in a special field.

How did Mr. Ross, a leading "expert" participant in Oslo negotiations, permit President Clinton to state in his speech on Dec. 14, 1998, to the Palestinian leadership, "I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there."

The nullification of the onerous clauses of the 1968-amended 1964 charter was one of the most important Palestinian obligations of the Oslo peace process. One does not have to be an expert to conclude that every step of the daisy chain of chicanery perpetrated by the Palestinian leaders never changed one word of the charter.

1. (Then authority President Yasser) Arafat's promises to change the charter in his September 1993 letter to (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin was "subject to" approval of the Palestinian National Council. Clause 33 of the charter specifically requires two-thirds of the members of the PNC to vote for any change in the charter.

2. The April 1996 PNC resolution required a legal committee to redraft the charter. There is no record that a legal committee was ever formed and there is no record that one word of the charter was ever changed in

the PNC 1996 resolution. 3. Arafat's letter to President Clinton alleged that the PNC April 1996 resolution resulted in a series of specific charter clause nullifications. There is not one shred of evidence to sustain his allegations.

4. The Dec. 14, 1998, vote of the Palestinian leaders to confirm the content of Arafat's letter to President Clinton was a confirmation of something that never happened. A confirmation of a lie cannot convert the lie into a fact.

I repeat my offer of \$25,000 to be given to each of the following charities: American Blind Vets, American Paraplegic Vets, Israeli Blind Vets, Israeli Paraplegic Vets, if Mr. Ross or anyone can come forward with a valid modified Palestinian charter with the specific annulled and modified articles of the charter as Arafat alleged in his January 1998 letter to President Clinton.

6
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Palm Beach Daily News

Opinion

Peace process 'expert' can't produce amended charter

Posted Feb 27, 2013 at 12:01 AM

Updated Feb 27, 2013 at 2:10 AM

By WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Special to the Daily News

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An expert is defined as a person who is very skillful and has much training and knowledge in a special field.

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2. The April 1996 PNC resolution required a legal committee to redraft the charter. There is no record that a legal committee was ever formed and there is no record that one word of the charter was ever changed in the PNC 1996 resolution.

3. Arafat's letter to President Clinton alleged that the PNC April 1996 resolution resulted in a series of specific charter clause nullifications. There is not one shred of evidence to sustain his allegations.

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We Were Fooled Once; Is That Not Enough?

We Here, in a nutshell, are Arafat's lies, lies and more lies.

BY: WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Published: 03/04/2013

“Arafat is a man who never comes to a bridge which he can’t double cross” was a favorite late King Hussein’s expression.

Israel and the US were beguiled by Arafat into Israel signing the Oslo agreement with his September 1993 letter to PM Rabin and the Wye River Agreement with his Jan. 1998 letter to President Clinton.

Arafat’s Sept. 1993 letter was laden with lies which PM Rabin accepted without realizing that every magnificent commitment in that letter was “subject to” approval by the Palestinian National Council (PNC). Article 33 of the amended 1968 Palestinian Charter (Covenant) specifically stated that no changes in the charter could be made unless 2/3 of the members of the PNC voted for a change.

More than 2 ½ years after Arafat’s Sept. 1993 letter to PM Rabin, the PNC did meet in April 1996 and voted for a two clause resolution which any reasonably objective person would know never changed one word of the charter.

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oct. 1996 issued a memo which stated, “. . . By leaving the Covenant (the Charter) intact, the PLO sends a clear message that it has not renounced violence nor accepted Israel’s right to exist. . . .”

No document pertaining to the Charter ever surfaced from Oct. 1996 until the Jan. 1998 Arafat letter to President Clinton, in which Arafat once again, was adhering to King Hussein’s assessment of him. He had the audacity to state that the April 1996 PNC vote resulted in annulments of specifically enumerated charter clauses. Arafat’s allegations were outright lies with not one document to sustain his assertions. Several votes by Palestinian leaders affirming Arafat’s letter to President Clinton could not convert Arafat’s lies into facts.

President Clinton on Dec. 14, 1998 delivered a masterful speech accepting the votes of Palestinian leaders’ confirmations in which he stated “I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the Government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there.”

It will always remain a mystery how two countries could be so blatantly fooled by a man whom everyone knew was a serial liar.

The Palm Beach Post

Submissions from Post readers

Tuesday, March 6, 2013

Israel is important ally in Middle East

The writer of the letter “Why should Hagel need Israel’s OK?” concluded that Sen. Bill Nelson’s discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pertaining to Chuck Hagel meant that Sen. Nelson was seeking Mr. Netanyahu’s approval. There is a major difference between a senator asking for an opinion and asking for an approval.

The letter-writer should study some of the opinions of some of our military leaders with reference to the benefits the United States derives from our relationship with Israel.

The letter of the same day “We need to put America first” also evinced an underlying antipathy toward Israel.

Not one U.S. soldier has ever died protecting Israel, and the billions in aid to Israel are mostly used to purchase U.S.-made military equipment, which helps our economy.

If Israel “disappeared,” how many more dollars would have to be spent to protect our Mediterranean and Middle East allies from the millions of Islamists in countries who would still hate the West?

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN

Palm Beach

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion/letters-congress-should-pass-national-disaster-insurance-plan/5lqfMePGIki2Np0nJNPVL/>



It's Never Too Late: Letter to Bill Clinton

In a letter sent to the former president, the writer exposes the Palestinian Arab lies that Clinton swallowed, hook, line and sinker. Since he has admitted other mistakes, says the writer, perhaps he can correct this one.

From William K. Langfan

The Honorable William J. Clinton, New York, N.Y.

RE: Your December 14, 1998 Speech to the Leaders of the Palestinians

You have recently written an article which was published in the *Washington Post* in which you stated that you now consider unconstitutional the Defense of Marriage law outlawing recognition of gay marriage which you signed, as President. I consider it extremely admirable for you to admit that you made a mistake on such an important issue.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the following paragraph from your remarkable speech which you delivered to the Palestinian leaders on December 14, 1998:

“ . . . I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the Government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there. . . .”

The Palestinian leaders, prior to your speech, had reaffirmed the content of Arafat's January 13, 1998 letter to you. Arafat in this letter listed several enumerated clauses from their all-important Palestinian Charter (Covenant) which he alleged were annulled by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) on Aril 24, 1996. These Arafat allegations were untrue which I shall prove to you below. If these Arafat allegations were not true, all of the December 1998 Palestinian reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to you are meaningless. A reaffirmation of a non-existing fact can not convert the non-occurrence into something that took place.

I make the following offer: I hereby agree to donate \$100,000 to your William J. Clinton Foundation plus \$25,000 each to Paraplegic American Vets, Blinded American Vets, Paraplegic Israeli Vets, and Blinded Israeli Vets if someone comes forward with a valid Charter dated prior to January 13, 1998, which omits the allegedly annulled Charter clauses and includes the newly partially annulled clauses, enumerated in Arafat's January letter to you.

The Palestinian daisy chain of chicanery to bamboozle you, Prime Minister Netanyahu and the world that they changed their Charter starts with Arafat's September 9, 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin. Arafat stated in this letter “ . . . The PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant (Charter) which deny Israel's right to exist and the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the (PNC) Palestinian National Council (Congress) for formal approval changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant.”

Clause 33 of the 1968 Amended 1964 Charter states “This charter shall not be amended save by [votes of] a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of the National Congress (Council) of the Palestinian Liberation Organization [taken at] a special session convened for that purpose.” Therefore, every Arafat commitment which contravened the Charter was subject to the approval of the PNC. Each, if not all of Arafat's commitments in his letter to Prime Minister Rabin were violative of Charter articles. Simply stated, unless the PNC voted to approve Arafat's commitments pursuant to Article 33, Arafat's commitments were worthless.

More than two and one half years after Arafat's Sept. 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin, the PNC met on April 24, 1996. Before the members voted for a two clause resolution, PNC Chairman Zanoun delivered a speech in which he declared that we had to do something (he was indirectly referring to Clause XXXI, Paragraph 9 of Oslo II which required the modification of the Charter clauses within two months of the inauguration of Oslo II.) Oslo II became effective on March 7, 1996 which meant that changes in the Charter had to take place before May 7, 1996. Zanoun further stated that it would be less damaging if we prepared a new Charter rather than amending the old charter

which gives us an extension of six months until the Central Council meets. It is very obvious that Zanoun was pleading with the PNC members to vote for the resolution because in reality it was a delaying tactic.

The two clause resolution for which the members of the PNC voted clearly did not change the Palestinian Charter. Clause one definitely states that the PNC intends to amend the Charter by cancelling articles which are contrary to the September exchange of letters between Arafat and Rabin. However, no specific Charter clauses were mentioned. Clause two assigns to a legal committee the task of redrafting the Charter and presenting it to the PCC (Palestinian Central Council) at a future time. No reading of those two clauses combined with the Zanoun speech and the fact that there is no evidence that a legal committee ever redrafted a new Charter and no evidence that anything was ever presented to the PCC, could possibly enable any reasonably objective person to conclude that any specific change in the Charter happened when the PNC voted to approve the resolution.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a communique in October 1993 in response to the PNC April 1996 resolution and vote. It referred to Clause XXXI of Oslo II requiring changes in the Charter within two months from the inauguration of the agreement. The communique then stated that no changes were made in the PNC April 1996 resolution and vote. There is no evidence that anything pertaining to the Charter ever occurred after the October 1993 Israel Foreign Ministry Communique until Arafat sent his January 13, 1998 letter to you.

Arafat alleged in this letter that specifically enumerated clauses of the Charter were annulled and that other specifically enumerated clauses were partially annulled by the PNC April 1996 vote. These allegations were bold face lies. The evidence above unequivocally proves that nothing specific happened in that PNC April 1996 vote and nothing pertaining to the Charter happened since that vote. The Wye River Memorandum and the subsequent Palestinian Leaders December 1998 votes and reaffirmations of Arafat's letter to you could not convert a lie into the truth. If the Palestinian leadership really wanted to amend the Charter, they had two years and seven months from the date of Arafat's letter to Prime Minister Rabin to list the annulled clauses and redraft the Charter.

Every Palestinian leadership step proved conclusively that they never intended to change one word of their Charter. They used Arafat's deceptive, meaningless Sept. 1993 letter to Prime Minister Rabin and the April 1996 PNC vote which referred to Arafat's letter as the basis of an amendment without actually amending anything. Then they used Arafat's false allegations in his January 1998 letter to you and reaffirmations of falsehoods as a continuation of their chain of alleged annulments without ever changing one word of the Charter.

Mr. President, I believe that you would perform a service to our county, the world, and to yourself if you were to state that the Palestinians have never changed their "Destroy Israel" Charter which was created when Israel was within her 1967 borders.

Respectfully,

William K. Langfan

Tags: [Oslo Accords](#) , [Oslo Has Failed - Now What](#)

www.israelnationalnews.com

President Peres, Peace and Jihad Don't Mix

President Shimon Peres may speak about peace while in Jordan, but let's take a clear look at the situation.

William K. Langfan, 5/26/2013, י"ז בסיון תשע"ג

"Peace" is a magnificent word which has been used, abused, and marginalized into a meaningless expression.

Here are some of your quotes, M. President:

1. "I will make Assad a peace partner just as I made Arafat a peace partner"
2. "Peace of the Brave"

And here are some of Arafat's:

1. Arafat's Sept. 1993 letter to PM Rabin "PLO commits itself to the Middle East Peace Process and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict..."
2. Arafat's Jan. 1998 letter to Pres. Clinton "...All of the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the PLO commitment to recognize and live in peace side by side with Israel are no longer in effect."

US Secretary of State John Kerry has urged Israeli and Palestinian leaders to "Demonstrate leadership" to find a way back to direct peace negotiations. William Hague British Foreign Secretary fully supports US efforts to restart Israeli-Palestinian Arab peace talks.

All of these peace advocates are blind to the simple fact that Palestinian expressions of peace in English do not coincide with their intentions, actions and their continuous use and jihad, martyrdom, and anti-Israel programs on Palestinian Arab TV.

Since Arafat's famous September 1993 peace letter to Prime Minister Rabin, not one word of the PLO charter to destroy Israel has been changed despite Palestinian Arab charades, Palestinian votes, and Arafat's letters.

I repeat my [offer of \\$100,000](#) if anyone can come forward with an amended Palestinian Charter confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Palestine National Council (as required by Art. 33 of the 1968 PLO charter), pursuant to Arafat's allegations in his January 1998 letter to Pres. Clinton.

There are many recent illustrations which are the exact opposite of peaceful intentions by Palestinian Arab officials according to Palestinian Media Watch(PMW). For example:

Sultan Abu al-Einein: "We salute the heroic fighter who went against the settler and killed him. Blessings to the breast that nursed him."

Senior PA official [Jibril Rajoub](#): "I swear that if we had a nuke, we have used it this morning."

PA TV program expresses refusal to compromise with Israel and promises return to Jaffa and Tel Aviv.

PA TV Calls for raising Palestinian flags over Palestinian Authority villages.

Mr. President, unless and until Palestinian expressions of peace in English correlate with their real actions and words in Arabic, peace talks will be futile.

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The Palm Beach Post

Submissions from Post readers

July 15, 2013

Abbas doesn't speak for majority

Secretary of State John Kerry has been wasting his time shuttling between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his attempt to resurrect a peace process.

President Abbas represents a minority of Palestinians. He has almost no following in Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas.

If Abbas and Netanyahu were to sign an agreement, Hamas leaders would accept what Israel has transferred, but they would not adhere to any responsibilities which Abbas has undertaken. Thus Israel would have conveyed control of land with no real Palestinian obligations.

If Abbas' Fatah party and Hamas were to unite, Israel would be foolish to enter into an agreement with an entity which contained two charters and one constitution to destroy Israel.

Unless and until the mindsets of *all* Palestinian leaders to destroy Israel have been changed to the satisfaction of Israel, any meeting between Israel and Palestinian leaders would serve no purpose.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion/letters-gardens-should-show-restraint-vavrus-development/1005uxIDawEIZ6Jfx7I5AL/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Know what true peace means to Palestinian leaders

Jewish peace advocates in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict should understand what peace means to many of the Palestinian leaders.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat often referred to the Oslo Agreement with Israel as an agreement similar to Muhammad's 10-year peace accord with the tribes of Mecca (the Quraish). Two years after their peace agreement, when Muhammad and his cohorts were much more powerful, they destroyed the Quraish. There are numerous tapes of Arafat speeches stating this definition of peace with Israel.

Arafat also frequently stated that a peace agreement with Israel was defined as a step-by-step approach to the destruction of Israel as stated in the Palestinian National Council 1974 Resolution.

Palestinian Media Watch stated in its July 22nd bulletin that in a July 19th sermon, Palestinian Minister of Religious Affairs Al-Habbash declared on PATV, in the presence of President Mahmoud Abbas, that a peace agreement with Israel was similar to Muhammad's pact with the Quraish tribe. He ended his comparison with the words, "This is the example and this is the model."

There are many examples of Palestinian leaders stating that peace agreements with Israel are tactics for the end result of the elimination of Israel.

William Langfan, Palm Beach



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

September 11, 2013

In Their Own Words...

Many well-meaning people have decided that if Israel were to return to its pre-June 1967 borders, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would end.

When I ask advocates of this concept how they arrived at this conclusion, I receive answers such as “the Palestinians only want the area that was allocated to them in the UN vote.” These people either are unaware of Palestinian documents and speeches that call for the destruction of Israel or they don’t want to believe these very revealing facts.

I have met other advocates who were not aware of the fact that the PLO and its charter to destroy Israel were created in 1964 when Israel was within its pre-1967 borders. Not one person was aware of the fact that Abbas’s Fatah party also created and issued a constitution calling for the elimination of Israel when Israel was within its 1967 borders. Neither of these formal documents has ever been modified to eliminate clauses calling for the destruction of Israel.

Not one person with whom I have spoken was aware of organizations like PMW (Palestinian Media Watch) and MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute). These two groups monitor Palestinian Authority media and TV and provide a continuous flow of fully documented translations of Palestinian leaders glorifying and praising Palestinian terrorists as heroes.

PMW and MEMRI have presented us with evidence of Palestinian leaders comparing peace agreements with Israel to Muhammad’s 10-year peace treaty with the Quairish tribe, which he destroyed two years after he signed the treaty. They also have documented Palestinian leaders’ statements to the effect that a successful frontal attack against Israel is not possible and therefore they will try to destroy Israel in phases.

How can any objective person, once he or she is aware or made aware of these salient facts, continue to think that a return to pre-June 1967 borders is the solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*



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U.S. Philanthropist Offers Israeli Minister \$200,000 to Find Change in Palestinian Charter

MAY 5, 2014 11:54 AM

20 COMMENTS



Finance Minister Yair Lapid, leader of the Yesh Atid party. Photo: Yesh Atid.

Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid on Monday was offered a \$200,000 donation if he could back up a statement he made to *The Wall Street Journal* that the Palestinian National Council has officially renounced terrorism.

William Langfan, a Jewish American philanthropist, said the PNC's charter, created in 1968, has, in fact, never been changed, still calling for the destruction of Israel, even though that was agreed to be removed in 1998, "pursuant to Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton."

In a letter to the editor, seen by *The Algemeiner*, Langfan, a New York property investor now retired in Palm Beach, Florida, wrote:

"Nicholas Casey in his recent *Wall Street Journal* article 'Palestinian Unity' stated that some Israeli government officials say that negotiations with Hamas could one day become possible if it recognizes Israel."

Author:



Joshua Levitt

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Mark Langfan PLO

PNC

William Langfan

“He then quotes Yair Lapid, ‘It’s not like it didn’t happen before.’ ‘The PLO used to be a terror organization.’ I respectfully suggest that Lapid read Article 33 of the PLO 1968 Charter and ask himself where and when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) voted to modify or annul one article of their Charter.”

“The Charter unequivocally states that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void and that they would use armed resistance until Palestine was liberated. Charter Article 33 clearly states that no change in the Charter can occur unless 2/3 of the PNC members vote for a change.”

“I hereby offer Lapid \$200,000 if he can come forward with a voted PNC resolution specifying the Articles of the Charter which have been changed or annulled pursuant to Arafat’s January 1998 letter to President Clinton.”

Rather than see the question as mincing words, Langfan’s letter spoke to the underlying environment of incitement to hatred that pervades Palestinian society:

“I also suggest that Lapid read a few days of Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) and Middle East Research Institute (MEMRI) documented translations of the Palestinian Authority (PA) controlled TV programs, newspapers, and PA leaders’ utterances,” he wrote.

Langfan concluded: “The failure to change one word of the PLO Charter and the Fatah Constitution, the daily PA controlled media, the PA instituted second Intifada (after Oslo) which caused more Israeli civilian deaths than in any previous years, and many other facts too numerous to mention, rebut Lapid’s statement that the PLO is no longer a terrorist organization.”

Langfan’s son is Mark Langfan, the New York-based chairman of AFSI, Americans for a Safe Israel, and an [independent policy analyst who focuses on cartography and the geography of the Middle East.](#)

Letter to President Abbas: Martin Indyk, Take Note

Mr. Abbas, you and I know that a masterful fraud was perpetrated by the Palestinian Arab leadership.

William K. Langfan, 5/17/2014, י"ז באייר תשע"ד

President Abbas, you have publicly stated that the Arab failure to accept the 1947 partition was a mistake.

You have also stated that the Second Intifada that began in the year 2000 was a mistake.

Was it a mistake for the PLO to be created in 1964 with its Charter exclusively dedicated to the destruction of Israel? Israel was within her pre-1967 lines in 1964.

The Charter was amended in 1968 with no change in the clauses pertaining to the destruction of Israel plus new clauses 8, 9, and 10 which specifically declare that they will utilize armed struggle to liberate 'Palestine'.

Was it a mistake for Arafat in two letters to PM Rabin (sent 1993 and May 1994) to promise that during Oslo negotiations he would have his magnificent words of peace formally approved by the Palestinian National Council (PNC)? Clause 33 of the 1968 Charter states that no changes can be made to the Charter unless 2/3 of the PNC vote for the change.

Israel relied upon the promises of the Palestinian Arab leaders that the alleged illegality of their creation and the Palestinian Arab use of 'armed struggle' (read terrorism) would be annulled in order to proceed with Oslo.

Clause XXXI paragraph 9 of the 1995 Interim agreement obligated the PLO to annul clauses of the Charter within two months after the inauguration of the interim agreement. The inauguration of the Charter took place March 7, 1996.

Was it a mistake that the April 1996 PNC meeting to modify the Charter was a charade to fool Israel and the US into thinking that the PNC had modified the Charter?

Clause one of the April 1996 PNC resolution in general terms stated that the members of the PNC had decided to amend the Charter to comply with the contents of the exchange of the two letters between Arafat and PM Rabin.

Clause two of the resolution assigned the redrafting of the Charter to a legal committee.

There is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed and there is no evidence that any change was made in the Charter.



What logic dictates that the affirmation of a lie can convert a lie into the truth?



Was it a mistake for Arafat in his January 1998 letter to President Clinton to lie to President Clinton by stating in his letter that as a result of the PNC 1996 resolution articles 6-10, 15, 19-23 and 30 have been modified and the parts of articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27, and 29 have also been nullified.

Was it a mistake that these nullifications never occurred and that the PLO and all the leaders of the various ministries raised their arms and voted to reaffirm Arafat's lies in his letter to President Clinton?

You and I know that a masterful fraud was perpetrated by the Palestinian Arab leaders.

Was it a mistake to fool President Clinton, PM Netanyahu and the world into thinking that your leaders confirmed changes in the Charter that never happened?

What logic dictates that the affirmation of a lie can convert a lie into the truth?

The Palestinian leadership has engaged in a stream of too many material "mistakes" to enable anyone to believe that your mindset to destroy Israel has changed one iota and that your intention to engage in peace with Israel should be taken seriously.

Your 1968 Charter, the 1964-5 Fatah constitution, and the 1988 Hamas Charter must all be properly annulled, and the Palestinian Arabs in a carefully monitored referendum in which at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people vote to live in peace side by side with Israel, must occur before Israel can possibly meet with you again.

Sincerely,
William K. Langfan

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 23, 2014

Liberal Churches And Divestment

Some liberal Christian denominations in the U.S. have recently voted to divest their Israel investments.

These Christian leaders should take a good look at what is happening to Christians right now in Iraq. They should also compare the increase in the amount of Christians in Israel with the substantial decrease of Christians in Muslim countries.

In addition, a comparison of the rights of Christians in Israel and the rights of Christians in Muslim countries is further evidence of the flawed reasoning of these divestiture advocates.

If these Christian leaders examine these facts and still insist upon their penalization of Israel, they are not capable of allowing facts to alter their decisions.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

What if ...

The New York Times headline on July 22 stated, “Israel is facing a difficult choice in Gaza conflict – World Seeks Cease Fire – More civilian deaths or letting the enemy live to fight again.” I wonder if the “world” referred to by The New York Times, would seek a cease-fire if Hamas were defeating Israel.

William Langfan, West Palm^N

The Palm Beach Post

By Post readers

Submissions from Post readers

Posted: Aug 14, 2014

Christians Targeting Israel For Divestiture?

Some Christian denominations in the U.S. have recently voted to divest their Israel investments.

These Christian leaders should take a good look at what is happening to Christians right now in Iraq. They should also compare the increase in the amount of Christians in Israel with the substantial decrease of Christians in Muslim countries. In addition, a comparison of the rights of Christians in Israel and the rights of Christians in Muslim countries is further evidence of the flawed reasoning of these divestiture advocates.

If these Christian leaders examine these facts and still insist upon their penalization of Israel, they are not capable of allowing facts to alter their decisions.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, PALM BEACH

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/opinion/letters/grhbOmgLbbhu4PAxvTAPpL/>

Christians pulling funds out of Israel?

Some Christian denominations in the U.S. have recently voted to divest their Israel investments.

These Christian leaders should take a good look at what is happening to Christians right now in Iraq. They should also compare the increase in the amount of Christians in Israel with the substantial decrease of Christians in Muslim countries. In addition, a comparison of the rights of Christians in Israel and the rights of Christians in Muslim countries is further evidence of the flawed reasoning of these divestiture advocates.

If these Christian leaders examine these facts and still insist upon their penalization of Israel, they are not capable of allowing facts to alter their decisions.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN,
PALM BEACH

Letters From a Zionist

A well informed letter to the editor is a way for other people to begin understanding the Middle East."

William K. Langfan, 10/4/2014, 'י בתשרי תשע"ה

Letter I: Borders and Tunnels

Dear Editor:

1. Have the advocates of Israel's return to 1967 lines and the proponents of a two-state solution ever considered the fact that Israel was within the 1967 lines when the PLO and its charter to destroy Israel were created in 1964.

2. Have these exponents ever given any weight to the fact that despite the Palestinian Arab leaders' promises before, during, and after Oslo, that they would eliminate the clauses in their charter to destroy Israel, not one word of the charter has ever been changed?

I now repeat my offer to give a Wells Fargo Bank check for \$200,000 to the first person who can present a validly modified charter enacted by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) to coincide with the clauses annulled or changed according to Arafat allegations in his January 1998 letter to President Clinton (clause 33 of the 1968 charter states that 2/3 of the PNC members must vote for any change in the charter.)

3. Have any of these pundits ever reflected on the facts that Fatah, the most important faction of the Palestinian Authority (PA), has a 1964 constitution which also calls for Israel's destruction and that Hamas has a 1988 charter which not only calls for the destruction of Israel but also calls for killing Jews?

4. Are any of these promoters aware of the tunnels which have been dug into Israel and the potential dangers of additional tunnels from the West Bank into Israel?

5. Would any of these supporters like to fly into or from Ben Gurion airport with missile launchers a short distance away?

6. Are these supporters aware of the fact that there were more Israeli civilian's deaths from terrorism per year after Oslo than before, until barriers were built?

7. Would the US and allies have relinquished control of Germany or Japan if similar facts existed?

I respectfully ask any of these sincere proponents of a return to 1967 borders to refute the above facts or present facts, not opinions, which would enable an objective person to conclude that the atmosphere in the middle east today presents an opportunity for Israel to gamble with her future by returning to 1967 borders or agreeing to a two state solution.

Letter II: PLO and Hamas Charters

Editor:

Danish Foreign Minister Lidegaard wants a footnote in history similar to Chamberlain and Daladier by threatening Israel to change the pattern of negotiations. He should study the result of forcing Czechoslovakia in Munich 1938 to convey control of the Sudetenland to Germany.

Israel must be ultra careful with any "Peace Agreement" with the Palestinians predicated upon her experiences in Oslo I and II and the Wye River Agreement, all of which were blatantly violated by the Palestinians.

I respectfully suggest that Mr. Lidegaard read the PLO charters of 1964 and 1968, the Fatah Constitution of 1964-1965, the Palestinian National Council 1974 resolution, and the 1988 Hamas Charter before he attempts to follow through on his blackmail threat. None of these documents which call for the destruction of Israel has ever been modified irrespective of the fact that the PLO engaged in a series of steps of chicanery to deceive the world into believing that they had annulled several clauses of the 1968 Charter.

I further respectfully suggest that he ask Abbas to present him with a "modified" charter pursuant to the Palestinian vote to reaffirm Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton in which Arafat alleged and lied that the onerous clauses of the 1968 Charter were nullified.

Respectfully,
William K. Langfan

Letter III : Changing one's Mindset

Dear Editor:

The future behavior of the Palestinian Authority formerly known as the PLO, can be reasonably predicted by their past and present conduct.

The PLO was created in 1964 with its infamous Charter to destroy Israel when Israel was within her 1967 borders.

Their charter was specifically directed only toward Israel. It declared that the establishment of Israel was illegal and void; the area of the former British Mandate was indivisible; and that they would engage in armed resistance until Palestine was liberated; i.e. Israel was destroyed. Jordan was in control of the West Bank and so called East Jerusalem, and Egypt was in control of Gaza pursuant to the 1949 armistice. Article 24 of the charter specifically excluded these areas from their "liberation" of Palestine.

The PLO had no success in their mission to destroy Israel until the creation and the signing of the Declaration of Principles (DOP), also known as Oslo I, in September 1993 when Israel conveyed control of a segment of the West Bank in exchange for peace with the Palestinian leadership. The PLO promised to eliminate the charter clauses calling for the destruction of Israel; terrorism was to be eliminated; and the Palestinians were to live side by side peacefully with Israel.

Israel was in the process of negotiating the Interim Agreement (Oslo II) with Palestinian Leadership in the fall of 1995. Israel was to give control of more land in exchange for Palestinian promises of peace. At that time Prime Minister Rabin delivered a speech to the Knesset in which he stated that we all are very disappointed that the PNC had not changed the charter in the two years since the signing of the DOP in September 1993. As a result of this failure, clause XXXI, ¶ 9 of the Interim Agreement (Oslo II) was inserted in the agreement which required the onerous charter clauses to be eliminated within two months of the inauguration of the Interim Agreement. The Interim Agreement became effective on March 7, 1996. Article 33 of the PLO 1968 Charter states that the Palestinian National Council (PNC) is the only entity that can change any provisions of the Charter with a 2-3 majority membership vote.

The PNC finally did meet on April 24, 1996. PNC Chairman Zanoun delivered a speech before the two article resolution was presented to the PNC Members in which he stated that they had to do something and the resolution answers the problem. "It gives us an extension of six months until the Central Council convenes." (The translation of Zanoun's speech is enclosed in English, and there is also a DVD of his speech available upon request

The resolution consisted of two articles. Article One states that the PNC has decided to amend the charter pursuant to the September 1993 exchange of letters between Arafat and PM Rabin. (No specific article changes were mentioned in clause one.) Article two, authorized a legal committee to redraft the charter and present the new charter to the Palestinian Central Council (PCC). There is no mention of the PCC in any of the 33 articles of the 1968 charter; nor is there any reference to when the redrafted charter would be presented to the PNC. There is not a shred of evidence that a legal committee ever redrafted a new charter or that anything was ever presented to the PCC.

Any objective analysis of the two clause resolution would compel anyone to conclude that no change was made in the charter by that resolution. The PNC resolution was merely a tactic to appear to properly satisfy the Interim Agreement clause requiring the onerous clauses to be annulled within two weeks of the inauguration of the agreement.

The only known document pertaining to the charter between April 1996 and Jan 1998 emanated from the Israel Foreign Ministry in October 1996. It stated that no change in the charter occurred in the PNC April 1996 meeting. Thus the PLO has not renounced terrorism nor accepted the right of Israel to exist.

Arafat sent a letter to President Clinton in January 1998 in which he stated that the PNC April 1996 resolution was a comprehensive amendment of the charter which resulted in the annulment of articles 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 and the partial annulment of articles 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29.

These Arafat alleged annulments and partial annulments never happened; therefore, they were absolute lies. The fact that the Wye River Accord contained a memorandum of a procedure for various Palestinian Ministries including the PNC, to reaffirm Arafat's letter to President Clinton, could not magically convert Arafat's lies into facts.

It took my secretary less than 15 minutes to create the new enclosed WKL Amended 1968 Charter with the alleged annulled clauses. I did not have her change the alleged partially annulled clauses. No new charter with the annulment clauses excised and the new language of the partially annulled clauses has ever been published.

Intention is expressed by action. If there were a real desire to change the charter, the PNC would have met and voted for a resolution with the specific annulments and partially annulments pursuant to Arafat's letter to President Clinton.

I believe that I have proved that as of this moment, the Palestinians have been incapable of changing their charter to destroy Israel.

The year 2000 PLO inspired intifada; Palestinian Leadership reference to terrorists as "our soldiers"; and many other violations of Oslo I and II too numerous to mention; are further evidence of Palestinian Leadership lack of desire to live peacefully with Israel.

I respectfully ask anyone to refute my unequivocal statement that there has never been a valid nullification of one word of the PLO 1968 Charter to destroy Israel. If nobody comes forth with a valid refutation, why should Israel enter into any negotiations with the Palestinian Authority which has clearly illustrated that they do not fulfill their obligations?

Respectfully,
William K. Langfan



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

October 7, 2014

Swedish Recognition Of 'Palestine'

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven stated last week that Sweden will recognize the state of Palestine. He also said "the conflict between Israel and Palestine can only be solved with a two state solution, negotiated in accordance with international law."

Is Lofven aware of the fact that the PLO and its charter to destroy Israel were created in 1964, when Israel was within her 1967 borders? The charter was slightly amended in 1968 after the 1967 war but with the destruction of Israel clauses unchanged.

Does any interpretation of international law suggest that an entity should be rewarded with recognition as a state when it has a charter that clearly states it will engage in armed resistance until it destroys its neighbor?

Furthermore, Hamas has joined the Palestinian Authority in a unity government. Hamas has a 1988 charter that is worse than the PA charter. It not only unequivocally states that it would attack until Israel is destroyed; it also calls for the killing of Jews.

I suggest that Lofven read the 1964 and amended 1968 PLO (now PA) charters as well as the Hamas charters.

In addition, he should study the fraudulent steps by which the PLO engaged to deceive Israel and the world into believing that it modified its charter.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

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Pause on statehood for Palestinians

Sweden has just recognized Palestine as an official state. Several other European countries appear ready to do the same.

These European countries should first try to regain control of the many “no-go” Muslim areas in their own countries before they decide whether to recognize the “State of Palestine.”

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN,
PALM BEACH

Editor's note: A “no-go” zone is considered an area where police officers and other service workers do not enter because a minority community is already operating its own justice system.

European nations should look inward

Sweden has recognized the “State of Palestine.” Several other European countries appear ready to do the same. These countries should first try to regain control of the many “no-go” Muslim areas in their own countries before they decide whether or not to recognize the state of Palestine.

William Langfan, Palm Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

03/25/2015

No Change at All

Denis McDonough, US President Barack Obama's White House chief of staff, told the annual conference of J Street: "An occupation that has lasted almost 50 years must end, and the Palestinian people must have the right to live in and govern themselves in their own sovereign state" ("US wants to see Israeli commitment to two states matched by actions," March 24).

The steps of chicanery that Palestinian leaders have used to deceive the world into believing that they have modified their charters are a perfect example of their perfidy in adhering to agreements. Not one word in their charters has ever been changed. Fatah has a live constitution, and Hamas has a live charter, both of which call for the destruction of Israel.

Any study of Palestinian leaders' utterances after the signing of the Oslo Accords clearly dictates that they have not changed their minds about destroying Israel. If Israel were to sign a peace agreement with them in the atmosphere of today, it would be a repeat of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, with the consequence being its destruction.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach, Florida

<http://www.jpost.com/landedpages/printarticle.aspx?id=395123>



Losing Control: Poroshenko on the Horns of a Dilemma Over Blockade in Donbass



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US Businessman Hands \$1Mln to Whoever Proves PLO Accepted Israel

US 08:11 02.10.2015 (updated 14:17 02.10.2015)

US businessman William Langfan has promised to give an epic prize of \$1 million in cash to whoever provides proof that the Palestinian National Council (PNC) modified the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to recognize Israel in its charter as it said it would in Oslo.

"I will up the ante to a million dollars to the first person who can present a charter modification with annulments duly voted by the PNC. It's a million dollar bank check from Wells Fargo," the New Yorker said.

Soon after the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced in his annual General Assembly speech that Palestine was no longer restrained by the Oslo Peace Accords, the US businessman made a bet that many believe poses no risk to him.

The thing is, the clauses of the 1964 Palestinian National Charter, one that is treated by Palestinians as nearly sacred, proclaimed the foundation of Israeli state unlawful and called for armed resistance until the liberation of Palestine. Nullifying those clauses was essential for the "Peace Process" which began in 1993 with the Oslo accord.

Before Israel and the PLO signed the document, former PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in a letter to then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to cancel the clauses calling for an armed resistance and said he would submit the matter to the PNC for approval. This was long considered proof that the PLO had acknowledged Israel's existence, Langfan explained in an interview with Arutz Sheva.

However, there was never a two-thirds majority vote, necessary to modify the charter. Only three years from then the PNC was asked to ratify the change and decided to "re-draft" the charter, yet "no record of any redrafted charter has ever been presented to the public," Langfan unambiguously stated. Not even after another letter by Arafat, this time to former US President Bill Clinton, in which he claimed that the anti-Israel clauses were excluded from the charter.

According to Langfan, all this time there were just lies but never an actual vote or any other record, and the whole Oslo process was based upon something that never took place.

"All that they did was reaffirm Arafat's lies, that something was done... that was never done," he said.

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Netanyahu Reiterates Commitment to Two-State Solution With Palestine



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Middle East Quartet Stresses Urgency of Israel-Palestine Conflict Solution

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Thomas Friedman wishes us a "nice life"

There is a big lie circulating out there and Thomas Friedman helps propagate it, as the writer makes clear.

From William K. Langfan

Dear Editor:

Thomas Friedman ended his *New York Times* October 28th column "[Have a nice life](#)" article with the words that Israel is slowly committing suicide, with all the best arguments for reaching an agreement with the Palestinian leadership.

On the contrary, any agreement with the Palestinian leadership which requires the divestiture of control of land is suicide for Israel.

One of the most important Palestinian Oslo obligations was a major change in their 1968 Amended 1964 Charter (Covenant) to destroy Israel.

During the Oslo negotiations, the Palestinian leadership engaged in a series of steps to bamboozle Israel and the world into believing that they had annulled several articles of their charter.

These are the articles that were allegedly annulled:

Article 6, Article 7, Article 8, Article 9, Article 10, Article 15, Article 19, Article 20, Article 21, Article 22, Article 23, Article 30.

Here's the catch: Article 33 of the charter states that no change can be made in the charter unless 2/3 of the Palestine National Council (PNC) members vote for a change.

Arafat alleged in his January 1998 letter to President Clinton that these twelve articles were annulled as a "result" of the April 1996 PNC resolution.

This is contrary to what the PNC voted for in April 1996.

This resolution merely stated in article 1 of the two-article resolution, that the PNC decided to amend the Palestinian National Charter by canceling articles opposing the exchange of letters between the PLO and the Israeli government.

Article 2 assigned to a legal committee the responsibility of redrafting the Palestinian National Charter and presenting it to the Palestinian Central Council (there is no mention of the PCC in the charter, however.)

There is no record that a legal committee was ever formed there is no record that a redrafted charter was ever created.

When the PNC and the other Palestinian leaders raised their arms on December 14, 1998 reaffirming Arafat's letter to President Clinton, the members of the PNC were reaffirming alleged annulments for which they never voted in April 1996. The other Palestinian leaders, by reaffirming Arafat's letter to President Clinton, reaffirmed an Arafat lie.

No reaffirmation of a lie can convert a lie into the truth.

If the members of the PNC really wanted to change the charter, all that was necessary was a 2/3 vote to annul each of these twelve articles. The PNC never has voted for such annulments; thus, the charter articles and the Palestinian leadership mindset to destroy Israel are still in effect.

Combine their failure to change the charter, with Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) and Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) translations of Palestinian leaders' speeches, TV, Mullah sermons, reference to terrorists as martyrs, naming streets for terrorists, plus other facts too numerous to mention, no objective observer could possibly want to enter into any agreement with the Palestinian leadership today.

When Israel unilaterally decides that the Palestinian mindset to destroy Israel no longer exists, Israel will meet with the Palestinian leadership to discuss a real peace.

Have a nice life too, Mr. Friedman.

Respectfully,
William K. Langfan

Tags: [thomas friedman peace talks charter](#)

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Ceding land would be suicide for Israel

Thomas L. Friedman ended his Oct. 29 column “Tell Mideast negotiators, ‘Have a nice life’ sometime” with the words “Israel is slowly committing suicide, with all the best arguments.” On the contrary; any agreement with the Palestinian leadership which requires the divestiture of control of land is suicide for Israel.

When Israel unilaterally decides that the Palestinian mind-set to destroy Israel no longer exists, Israel will meet with the Palestinian leadership to discuss a real peace.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN,
PALM BEACH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 4, 2015

Unchanged Charter

President Clinton delivered one of his masterful speeches in Tel Aviv last weekend at a memorial ceremony on the twentieth anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin. He suggested that the Israeli people carry out the Rabin legacy by finding a path to peace.

Unfortunately, he delivered his speech to the wrong people, exactly as he did on December 14, 1998, when he thanked the Palestinian leadership for annulling clauses in their charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

I have written two respectful letters to President Clinton in which I carefully objectively, and factually proved that the charter was never amended. He has not responded to my letters.

President Clinton, I publicly beseech you to retract your erroneous statement when you said to Palestinian leaders: "I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there."

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 11, 2015

Money talks

Former US president Bill Clinton delivered one of his masterful speeches in Tel Aviv (“Tens of thousands mark 20th anniversary of Rabin assassination,” October 31). He suggested that the Israeli people carry out the Rabin legacy by finding a path to peace.

Unfortunately, he delivered his speech to the wrong people, exactly as he did on December 14, 1998, when he thanked the Palestinian leadership for annulling clauses in their charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

The charter was never amended.

I will give a \$250,000 Wells Fargo bank check to the first person who presents a valid copy of a PLO charter where those clauses have been officially annulled.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach, Florida

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/November-11-Same-sauce-please-432614>

continued
from 1

Saves Lives with Swim Lessons, and asked friends and family to donate money for lessons for children whose families needed the financial help.

Through her efforts, she raised \$530, which along with a matching grant from the Children's Services Council, will become \$1,060 — enough money to provide 21 children with swim lessons.

Molly and the oldest supporter, William Langfan, were honored at the council's monthly meeting. Molly was presented with the present she never got for her birthday — a Spin 'N Ride Pups Barbie.

"We're extremely proud of her," Amy Blackman said. "And, she's proud of herself. She was beaming at the ceremony."

"I think this teaches humility. I want my kids to

realize they are fortunate to have what they do, and I want to instill values that will determine the adults they will be one day," she said.

Langfan, 93, a former Palm Beach real estate developer and World War II veteran, who said he was one of the first Americans to liberate the concentration camps, donated \$2,500, which will be matched to offer swim lessons to 100 children.

"I am so happy to give to this great cause," he said in a statement. "Childhood drowning is really preventable with watchful eyes and basic education in actual water conditions."

Molly and Langfan are two of many individuals and businesses who have stepped up as part of a water safety campaign launched earlier this year by the council and the

Palm Beach County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association.

The money raised will fund \$50 vouchers distributed by the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County to families, camps and youth groups. Each voucher is good for six to eight swim lessons at about 20 Palm Beach County pools.

"We're grateful to the local businesses and individuals who stepped up to provide swim lessons for kids to keep them safe," Burstein said.

For every dollar contributed by businesses or individuals for swim lessons for Palm Beach County children, the council will match up to \$50,000.

Visit cscpb.org or contact Jon Burstein at jon.burstein@cscpb.org or 561-703-2192.

Opinion

February 23, 2016

Palestinian leaders fail to comply with Oslo Peace Treaty obligations

William K. Langfan

UN Secretary General [Ban](#) Ki-Moon recently said that he feels guilty and ashamed of the lack of progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. His shame should have been directed to the Palestinian leadership for their failure to comply with their Oslo Peace Treaty obligations to change their 1968 [PLO](#) charter.

Oslo was predicated upon Israel conveying land in exchange for peace with the Palestinians. There is no doubt that Israel conveyed a sizable amount of land to the Palestinians. Oslo obligated the Palestinian National Council to eliminate the clauses of the PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction. Clause 33 of the 1968 Amended 1964 PLO Charter states that no changes in the charter can be made unless 2/3 of the membership of the Palestinian National Council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization votes for a change.

The PNC has never voted to change one specific clause of the charter. There has been one vote by the PNC in April 1996 which produced a two-clause written resolution which did state in clause one that the PNC has decided to amend the charter, and canceling the clauses opposing the Sept. 1993 exchange of letters between the PLO and the Israeli government. Clause two assigned to a legal committee the redrafting of a new charter and to present it to the Palestinian Central Council during its first meeting.

There is no evidence that a legal committee was ever formed and there is no evidence that any redrafting of the charter ever occurred pursuant to clause two of the resolution.

No other Palestinian document appeared pertaining to the charter, until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat sent his January 1998 letter to President Clinton.

He stated in this letter that as a result of the comprehensive Palestinian National Council vote in accordance with charter clause 33, clauses 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30 were annulled and clauses 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29 were partially annulled.

Arafat's annulment allegations were figments of his imagination which he used to bamboozle Clinton, Prime Minister Netanyahu and the world into believing that the charade which he created, would comply with the PLO commitment to change the charter.

The PNC and leaders of other Palestinian ministries verbally reaffirmed Arafat's letter to Clinton by raising their arms on Dec. 14, 1998. A verbal reaffirmation of Arafat's allegations of annulments certainly does not come close to meeting the requirements of charter clause 33. As a matter of fact, the members of the PNC who reaffirmed Arafat's letter to Clinton, reaffirmed what they never did in the April 1996 written resolution. Clause one merely stated that they have decided to amend their charter.

No new charter has ever appeared.

The almost daily translations by Palestinian Media Watch and the Middle East Media Research Institute of Palestinian TV, newspapers, Friday sermons and utterances of Palestinian leaders are proof positive that the 1964 creation of the PLO with its charter to destroy Israel remains their ultimate goal.

The 33 clause PLO 1968 Amended 1964 Charter is still their "junior Koran" which declares that the establishment of Israel is illegal and void, and that armed struggle is the only way to "liberate" Palestine. There is no evidence that the Palestinian leaders have any intention to enter into a meaningful peace with Israel.

William K. Langfan, of Palm Beach, is founding principal of The Langfan Company a real-estate investment company.

Open letter to French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault:

Do the French not know the truth about the Palestinian Arabs or do they not care?

William K. Langfan, 5/19/2016 , "א באייר תשע"ו,



French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, you have initiated a new Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process.

Mr. Ayrault, I am a 94 year old Jewish American recipient of your Legion of Honor for my service in France during World War II. I feel that I have the right to respectfully ask you to read the PLO original 1964 Charter which called for the destruction of Israel when Israel was within her 1967 borders. Please study Clause 24 which states, "This Organization does not exercise any regional sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip . . ."

I also would like you to study the rest of my letter which might compel you to have second thoughts about a Palestinian-Israeli peace conference at this time.

Are you aware of the fact that Oslo, the last "Peace" Agreement between the Palestinian Leadership and Israel, resulted in Israel's conveyance of a large segment of the 'West Bank', and Palestinian failure to change one word of their absolute obligation to eliminate the clauses of their PLO Charter to destroy Israel?

I am prepared to give a Wells Fargo \$250,000 check to you or the first person who presents a document validly voted by the Palestinian National Council which lists the alleged annulments of the charter and which contains the new language of the alleged partially annulled clauses. Clause 29 of the original 1964 Charter and Clause 33 of the 1968 Amended 1964 Charter clearly state that the Charter cannot be changed unless two-thirds of the members vote for a change. No such document exists; therefore, any attempt which allegedly has changed the Charter is null and void.

Are you aware of the fact that the other two political Palestinian parties, Hamas and Fatah, also have a charter and a constitution calling for the destruction of Israel?

Have you ever read any of MEMRI and PMW recent frequent exact translations of Palestinian T.V., newspaper articles, Palestinian leaders' speeches, and clergy Fridaysermons?

Respectfully,

William K. Langfan

Why doesn't anyone take up my offer?

Cash money and a lot of it will go to whoever can find what I am searching for.

William K. Langfan, 7/20/2016 ,י"ד בתמוז תשע"ו,

This letter has been sent to the editor with a request to make it public:

Dear Sir

The Palestinian Authority (PA) which is an extension of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) has now decided to convert their use of the words in Article Two of their 1968 amended 1964 Charter: "Palestine, with its boundaries at the time of the British Mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit."

Palestine has now become an Islamic "Waqf." It is forbidden to relinquish a single grain of soil (of it)" (an inalienable religious endowment in Islamic law).

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has recently translated a PATV program into various languages as follows: "Every grain of soil in Palestine is part of the blessed and holy Palestine; Palestine is an Islamic "Waqf." It is forbidden to relinquish a single grain soil (of it)." PATV June 11, 2016

Najeh Bakirat, head of the Waqf's Al-Aqsa Academy of Heritage and Antiquities and Muhammad Hussein, PA Grand Mufti, both of whom were appointed by Abbas, have also uttered this new "Waqf" concept. Abbas has not objected to the conversion of all of Palestine into an Islamic "Waqf."

I suggest that Secretary of State Kerry, the Prime Ministers of Europe, and J Street, et al, ask Abbas to comment on the Waqf assertions, and ask how could the PA negotiate with Israel, if Israel is not entitled to one grain of soil?

I have stated on many occasions that not one word of the 1968 amended 1964 Charter to destroy Israel has ever been specifically changed. Article 33 of the 1968 Charter clearly states that no changes can occur in the charter unless two-thirds of the PNC membership votes for a change.

I repeat my offer of a \$250,000 Wells Fargo check to the first person who comes forth with a two-thirds PNC membership voted resolution which annuls the twelve Arafat alleged charter annulments, and the new language of the sixteen partially annulled Arafat charter articles.

Respectfully,

William K. Langfan



Letters To The Editor



By: William K. Langfan

Published: August 17, 2016

What Would *You* Do?

Questions for European leaders and our own John Kerry:

Would you meet with an adjacent neighbor if –

* they possessed many thousands missiles and their three major political parties had formal charters and a constitution calling for your destruction?

* their TV programs taught their people that the area of your country and their country are part of a “WAQF” which is a religious expression meaning it is a sacred area, and that not one grain of soil can belong to anyone else?

* they signed a prior agreement with you requiring them to annul clauses in their charter calling for your destruction in exchange for your conveyance of land to them – and while you did comply with your obligation, they in fact changed not one word of their charter?

* they honored as martyrs terrorists who murdered civilians of your country and almost daily incited their people against yours?

* they stated words of peace in your language and said exactly the opposite in their own language?

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

<http://www.jewishpress.com/indepth/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-419/2016/08/17/>

Letters To The Editor

By: William K. Langfan

Published: September 14, 2016

Open Letter To Netanyahu

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

I respectfully and unequivocally state that not one word of the 1968 PLO Charter has ever been changed pursuant to Clause 33 of the Charter which states “that no changes in the charter can be made unless 2/3 of the membership of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) vote for a change.”

There is no written PLO Charter in existence other than the original 1964 PLO Charter and its amended 1968 version. The only special PNC session pertaining to the charter which has ever been held occurred in April 1996. Before the resolution was given to the PNC members, PNC Chairman Za'noun delivered a speech and stated the following: “But the version which was drafted is the least damaging that we could submit. It gives us an extension of six months until the Central Council convenes. And then the Central Council will discuss it. And it is within its rights to say they leave it for the National Council.”

Za'noun's words clearly meant that the resolution was intended to delay any change in the Charter and still fulfill Article XXXI paragraph 9 of the Interim Agreement. This clause required that within two months from the date of the inauguration of the Interim Agreement, the PLO undertakes to have the Palestinian National Council meet to approve the charter changes in the September 1993 exchange of letters between Arafat and Rabin.

The PNC voted for a two-clause resolution. Clause One did not mention one specific clause annulment. It was a generalized statement that the PNC had decided to amend the Charter and cancel articles that opposed the September 1993 exchange of letters between Arafat and Rabin. Clause Two assigns the legal

committee the responsibility of redrafting the Palestinian National Charter which will later be presented to the PCC during its first meeting. There is no evidence that any segment of Clause Two was ever fulfilled. There is no mention of Clause Two in any document after the 1996 PNC resolution. No other Palestinian document pertaining to the charter or the 1996 PNC Resolution was ever published until Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton.

Arafat boldly lied in the letter by stating that the April 1996 PNC Resolution resulted in 12 annulments (clauses 6-10, 15, 19-23, and 30) and 14 partial annulments (clauses 1-5, 11-14, 16-18, 25-27 and 29). Arafat in the letter converted the generalized language of Clause One into his own specific charter annulments and partial annulments. There is not one iota of evidence to sustain this untruthful conversion.

No special PNC session pertaining to the Charter other than the April 1996 meeting has ever been held.

The most powerful arguments Israel has as to why it should not meet with the Palestinians now is that Palestinian leaders have never changed one word of their charter's declared goal of destroying Israel.

Additionally, Hamas has a charter that is even worse than the PLO's. The 1998 Hamas Charter preamble states: "Surat Al-Imran (111), verses 109-11: Israel will arise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it as it had eliminated its predecessors."

And Clause 11 of the 1998 Hamas Charter declares that the land of Palestine has been and is an Islamic Wafq in perpetuity.

If Israel were to present to world leaders and international bodies some recent PMW and MEMRI translations of PATV programs, some recent Palestinian newspaper articles, some recent inflammatory statements by Palestinian officials, and some Friday sermons by Palestinian imams combined with the above charters, no reasonably objective party could object to your refusal to meet with Abbas or any Hamas official.

Respectfully,

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL

<http://www.jewishpress.com/indepth/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-423/2016/09/14/0/>

Open Letter to Major General (res.) Amnon Reshef

Reshef heads a group of ex IDF commanders whose peace plan is based on the belief that the Palestinian Arabs are trustworthy partners and cedes East Jerusalem to their future state, among other points

11/2/2016 , א' בחשוון תשע"ז, William K. Langfan



Arutz Sheva photo

,Dear Major General (res.) Reshef

You and the other members of the Commanders for Israel's Security should learn more about your prospective neighbor before you start on your road to the destruction of Israel

I am a 94 year young American Vet who had fought from Normandy to the most easterly part of Germany when the war ended. I have purchased two ambulances for Magen David Adom and a motorcycle for Hatzalah. My father collected money for arms for Israel in the mid-1940's. My son and I have been writing, lecturing, and debating for Israel for many years

We both were very surprised and shocked to hear about your organization "Commanders for Israel's Security," and your peace plan for a two-state solution

The saying that "it takes two to tango" should be considered very carefully before you embark on your campaign

Is Hamas, Fatah, or the Palestinian Authority to be your Peace Partner; or will it be all three

Hamas and the Palestinian Authority have charters which call for the elimination of Israel. Fatah has a constitution which also calls for the destruction of Israel. Oslo, thus far, has

been the only “peace” agreement that has been signed. The unilateral departure from Gaza was another attempt at peace with the Palestinian leaders

Arafat, et al promised in the Oslo Agreement to have the Palestine National Council (PNC) annul the onerous charter clauses. They never changed one word of the charter; however, Arafat did convince almost everyone that the April 1996 PNC meeting resulted in twenty-six charter clause annulments and partial annulments. Thus far, Israel pursuant to Oslo, conveyed large segments of land to the Palestinian Arabs and the unchanged 1968 charter still is the Palestinian “Junior Koran.” I don’t have to tell you the result of the Gaza withdrawal

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) and Middle East Research Institute (MEMRI) issue frequent translations of the PATV, Press, Palestinian leaders’ utterances, and Friday sermons. If anyone with an open or closed mind would read these translations, nobody would want to enter into any type of peaceful relationship with the advocates of such terrible concepts

How many times must you hear Palestinian leaders say that an agreement with Israel is similar to the agreement which Muhammad signed with the Quraysh, before you will believe it

How many times must you hear Palestinian leaders say that we will destroy Israel in phases, before you will believe them

How many times must you hear Abbas or other Palestinian leaders refer to terrorist murderers of Israeli civilians as martyrs, before you will understand them

You and your fellow commanders should also study the Cairo Palestinian National Council (PNC) “Political Programme of June 9, 1974.” The Palestinian leaders decided after the Yom Kippur War that a frontal attack against Israel was useless. Thus, they created the concept of destroying Israel in phases in this Programme

The Declaration by the PNC in Cairo on March 22, 1977 reiterated their 1974 Programme

Intention is what you must consider before you decide to do anything. I respectfully ask you to find one iota of any Palestinian leaders’ words or deeds in Arabic, which could lead you to conclude that they would settle for any result other than the elimination of Israel from their Muslim Waqf

,Respectfully

William K. Langfan

Arutz Sheva
your Israel news site

www.israelnationalnews.com

Arutz Sheva, your Israel news site

Miami Herald

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

January 3, 2017

West Bank settlements no excuse for violence

The U.N. should spend its time trying to convert the mindset of the Palestinian Authority, Fatah, and Hamas, rather than waste time on Israeli settlements.

Were the West Bank settlements the reason the Arabs attacked Israel in 1948, when the U.N. resolution established Arab segments and the Jewish state?

Were the West Bank settlements the reason in 1964 when the PLO and its 29-clause charter were created? Clause 24 stated, “This organization does not exercise anilly sovereignty in the West Bank or Gaza.”

Were the West Bank settlements the problem in 1967 when Egypt forced UN troops to leave the Sinai? The troops were stationed to prevent Egypt from attacking Israel.

Were the West Bank settlements the problem in 1968, when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) slightly amended the 1964 charter by eliminating clause 24 and adding clauses to use “armed struggle” to “liberate” Palestine?

Were the West Bank settlements the problem when the PNC issued its 10-clause Political Program in June 1974 after the Yom Kippur War?

This document said, “The Palestinian National Authority will strive to achieve a union of the confrontation countries, with the aim of completing the liberation of all Palestinian territory, and as a step along the road to comprehensive Arab unity.”

Were the West Bank settlements the problem when Arafat sent a 1993 letter to Rabin in which he listed PLO promises of peace that were contradictions of the 1968 charter?

There has never been a valid PNC recognition of Israel. There has never been a change of one word in the 1968 charter. The Fatah, the PLO, and Hamas still have formal documents calling for the destruction of Israel. There is no Palestinian document in existence to show that there has ever been a change in their mindset to destroy Israel.



WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, PALM BEACH FL.

Letters to the Editor

January 24, 2017

Why the two-state solution is impossible today

The two-state solution sounds like a reasonable approach to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The following slightly modified application of Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences winner Robert Aumann's Agreement Theorem is a valid illustration of why the two-state solution is not possible today.

Two men are placed in a locked room with a box containing \$100,000. They are told that if they can agree on how to split the money, they will share the agreed-upon amount.

No. 1 says this is the easiest \$50,000 I have every received.

No. 2 says I want the whole \$100,000 amount because I have known the donor for many years, and you have just met him. The only reason why you were chosen was because your great-great grandfather and the donor's great-great grandfather were very close friends.

They argue for an hour but cannot reach agreement, because No. 2 will not change his mind about the whole \$100,000.

The echo of gentleman No. 2 is in every Palestinian document, such as the PLO Charter, the Hamas Charter, the Fatah Constitution and practically every Palestinian writing in Arabic. Palestinian television programs, textbooks and newspapers also consistently follow gentleman No. 2's thinking. Please try to find one Palestinian Arabic example of sharing one grain of sand with Israel.

This is not my opinion; these are facts readily available to all. Just type Palestinian Media Watch into an internet search engine and you will find a constant stream of English translations of what I have stated above.

William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, Florida

■ U.N.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

man, Americans for a Safe Israel

Lawrence Muscant, vice president, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies

Lauri Regan, president, Endowment for Middle East Truth

Haim Shaked, director, Middle East Institute

David Shimon, board member, Israeli-American Council

Shaked, who was sick and unable to make the program, provided his message to the audience through Black.

“The United Nations, like the predecessor League of Nations, was propelled by a utopian dream,” Shaked said. “Both were launched by well-wishers after devastating world wars. Both were sidetracked by narrow political considerations of member countries.

“Like the League of Nations, the U.N. has not been able to prevent wars, massacres, genocide and evil. It has become an inefficient, costly and politically corrupt organization. It has certainly outlived its purpose.”

Langfan believes that the United Nations has done more than just fail in its mission to promote world peace, but has actually become a weaponized international forum — masquerading behind international law — with its guns set on Israel.

“We need the Covenant of Democratic Countries as a successor to the U.N. to preserve the good, but then to clarify, amend, strike down and undo the anti-Israel actions the U.N. and its constituent bodies have wrought,” Langfan said.

Black’s panel discussion at Palm Beach Synagogue was organized by Sharona Whisler, executive director of the Florida region of the Zionist Organization of America.

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Other supporting organizations included the Endowment for Middle East Truth, the Israel-American Council and the Southeast Region of StandWithUs.

Perhaps the strongest reason for the Jewish community to get involved with this reform effort is given on the organization’s website by Nathan Lewin, honorary president of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

“It is time to write the obituary of the United Nations,” Lewin said. “It deserves no ‘Kaddish’ [Memorial Prayer] because it committed suicide at the age of 71 with the passage of Security Council Resolution 2334 on Dec. 23, 2016.”

According to Black, some interested parties in this reform effort are suggesting that The Covenant of Democratic Nations should shut down (or “sunset”) its own existence after its reform work is done.

Black said that there will be a national e-petition circulating soon to support this reform effort — which will be available on The Covenant of Democratic Nations website, www.covenantofdemocraticnations.org.

Synagogue to Honor Role Model on 95th Birthday

By [Betty Nelander](#) - Daily News Staff Writer

Posted: 7:00 a.m. Friday, March 03, 2017



Bill Langfan, local veteran of the Battle of the Bulge and temple honoree.

Palm Beach Synagogue will honor resident **Bill Langfan** - retired businessman and World War II veteran - to mark his 95th birthday on Saturday. Services start at 9 a.m. followed by a noon luncheon and 12:30 p.m. celebration.

"Mr. Langfan is a pillar of tremendous strength within our community," said Rabbi **Moshe Scheiner**. "He has exemplified the virtues of loving kindness and generosity, and community and family and friendship."

"At 95, he is a role model and example to all of us on how one can be engaged, building a lasting, living legacy that will impact the lives of many others for generations to come."

Cantor **Zev Müller** of New York will lead the services and Israeli scholar **Mordecai Kedar**, an assistant professor at Bar-Ilan University, will talk about "the shared values and principles that have forged a great relationship between the United States and Israel, something which Mr. Langfan has devoted his life toward strengthening," said Scheiner.

Langfan will read from the Torah he donated to Palm Beach Synagogue in 2009 in his parents' memory. He's also given Torahs to **Temple Beth El**, **Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach** and **Temple Aitz Chaim** of West Palm Beach, all local synagogues he's attended.

Langfan's donations toward youth education connect teens to their heritage, history and culture and build leadership. This month, he again will sponsor synagogue teens to attend the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington, D.C., so they can become more engaged with issues that unite the United States and Israel. He also sponsors students attending from local temples Beth El and Emanu-El and Chabad of Clinton, N.Y., serving Hamilton University.

He lectures and writes about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, sometimes with son **Mark**, who uses maps to illustrate Israel's importance to the United States and Europe. His website is WilliamKLangfan.com.

During the war, he served in the Battle of the Bulge and was in the first group of liberators at the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1945.

His three children followed his footsteps and earned law degrees. One of his six grandchildren is attending his alma mater Cornell University, where a moot court competition is named for him, one of his several permanent endowments.

Langfan was the youngest of five growing up and "treated royally," he said. He was the first one in his family to attend college and law school.

Family from Washington, D.C., and New York will attend Langfan's birthday tribute at the temple and a party at The Chesterfield.

His birthday wish is "for people to seek the facts," he said. "If you know the facts, and you make a judgment, you are entitled to convey your opinion. But have facts, don't just rely on what you hear or read."

Of the synagogue tribute, he said: "They are asking me to tell a joke they haven't heard before. That's a little difficult. Good jokes are hard to find."

<http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/lifestyles/religion/synagogue-honor-role-model-95th-birthday/zKyRUzNefPOg93RCoBC9aN/>

Palm Beach Daily News, Friday, March 3, 2017

FOCUS ON FAITH

Synagogue marks Langfan's 95th

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Of the synagogue tribute, he said: "They are asking me to tell a joke they haven't heard before. That's a little difficult. Good jokes are hard to find."

Music at Bethesda-by-the-Sea — **James Guyer**, organist and choirmaster at **St. Boniface Episcopal Church** in Sarasota, will play a recital at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. Evensong with the Bethesda Choir will follow at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

Festive — Food, music and speakers will highlight a Women's League Shabbaton weekend March 17 and 18 at Temple Emanu-El. It will kick off with a dinner at 5:45 p.m. March 17, followed by 7:30 p.m. services.

The next day, **Temple Beth Shalom** Teen Choir of Greenwich, Conn., directed by Cantor **Asa Fradkin**, will sing traditional songs during the 9:15 a.m. service.

Carol Simon of Tampa, president of the **National Women's League of Conservative Judaism**, will address both services.

Mickey Feldberg, a former Women's League president, called Simon "charming, vivacious, and she has dedicated much of her adult life to Women's League."

In addition, Women's League president **Rhea Zukerman** will honor the board for its yearlong programming.

All are welcome. RSVP for dinner by March 13 by calling 832-0804.

Pre-Purim event — The **Palm Beach Jewish Women's Circle** gathering at 7 p.m. Monday at **The Chabad House** will feature tastings of hamantaschen

(three-cornered cookies or pastries that resemble

Haman's three-cornered hat in the Purim story) and guest speaker **Sorele Brownstein**. Born and raised in

Milan, Italy, Brownstein will share insights into Jewish heroines of the past. She co-directs **Chabad of Davis**, Calif., with husband Rabbi **Shmaryahu Brownstein**. Sorele Brownstein, the author of *The Gilded Cage: Queen Esther's Untold Story*, will also have a book signing and sale.

The women will prepare hamantaschen and gift packages before the Purim holiday, which takes place from sundown March 11 to nightfall March 12.

Purim drama — Purim Puppet Theater led by Rabbi **G of the Chabad Youth Network** will take place at The Society of the Four Arts Children's Library for ages 3 to 12. Children also can bake and take home hamantaschen at the event, set for 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

The third in the Daled Arts series is presented by The Chabad House in cooperation with the Friedman CJE's PJ Library. Email hindel@palmbeachjewish.com or register at palmbeachjewish.com/daledarts.

— bnlander@pbdailynews.com
Twitter: @typecasters



Langfan



Müller



Kedar



Simon



Fradkin



Betty Nelander



Letters To The Editor

By: William K. Langfan

Published: March 16, 2017

Abbas's Upcoming Visit

President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority is scheduled to visit President Trump in the near future.

He should be asked to bring with him a Palestine National Committee-voted Charter containing Yasir Arafat's alleged annulments and partial annulments of the genocidal Palestinian 1968 Charter, plus an alphabetical list of streets, schools, and other places named for "martyrs" who have murdered innocent Israelis.

*William K. Langfan
Palm Beach, FL*

<http://www.jewishpress.com/in-print/from-the-paper/letters-to-the-editor-449/2017/03/16/>



Letter to rabbis who did not join the POTUS New Year phone call

How easy it is to forget to judge oneself - and how hard to forgive what one sees as a sin - even if one is a rabbi.

BY: WILLIAM K. LANGFAN, 9/20/2017

Dear Editor:

Four groups of liberal Rabbis consisting of conservative, reform, and reconstructionist clergy, responded to President Trump's initial remarks pertaining to Charlottesville by saying that they did not want our President to send telephonic greetings for our New Year to them.

I am sure there is not one word in our Torah, the Talmud, or any commentary which would direct or suggest that anyone refuse to take a greeting call for the New Year from the President of our country because of dissatisfaction with his verbal response to a horrible occurrence.

The Rabbis have the absolute right to criticize our president's statement; however, I think their reaction was entirely too severe.

I believe that these same Rabbis should spend more of their time on helping Israel rather than precluding our President from sending New Year's greetings to them and their parishioners.

Would these same Rabbis refuse to take a New Year's greeting call from Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahoud Abbas who names buildings and schools in honor of terrorists who have murdered innocent Israeli civilians, and who makes monthly payments to families of terrorists who are in Israeli prisons for murder and other violent acts?

Have any of these Rabbis ever publicly chastised Abbas for his conduct or the acts of the Palestinian government?

Have any of these Rabbis ever demanded that the PLO and Hamas annul their formal charters, and Fatah annul its constitution, all of which unequivocally call for the destruction of Israel?

Respectfully,

William K. Langfan
mapmun@aol.com

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/21035>

will address this issue.

Secure the United States' southern border. Pass sensible DACA legislation. Then we can deal with illegal immigrants who have not broken any laws since their arrival. For them, perhaps a path to a green card. For their children, full citizenship at the age of 21, provided they don't break the law.

JACK FELTON,

BOYNTON BEACH

Rabbis overreacted to Trump's remarks

Four groups of rabbis consisting of conservative, reform and reconstructionist, responded to President Donald Trump's initial remarks pertaining to Charlottesville, Virginia, by saying that they did not want our president to send telephonic greetings for the Jewish

New Year (Rosh Hashana) to them.

I am sure there is not one word in our Torah, the Talmud, or any commentary which would direct or suggest that anyone refuse to take a greeting call for the New Year from the president of our country because of dissatisfaction with his verbal response to a horrible occurrence.

The rabbis have the absolute right to criticize our president's statement; however, I think their reaction was entirely too severe.

I believe that these same rabbis should spend more of their time on helping Israel rather than precluding our president from sending New Year's greetings to them and their parishioners.

WILLIAM LANGFAN,

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Letters To The Editor

By: William K. Langfan

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Selective Indignation

Liberal rabbis from the Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist movements responded to President Trump's initial remarks pertaining to Charlottesville by saying they would not participate in a pre-Rosh Hashanah conference call with the president.

I am sure there is not one word in our Torah that tells us we should refuse to take a New Year's call from the leader of a country because of dissatisfaction with that leader's verbal response to a horrible occurrence.

The liberal rabbis have an absolute right to criticize our president's statement; however, their reaction was entirely too severe.

These rabbis should focus more on helping Israel and less on demonizing the president and turning their backs on his New Year's greetings.

Would these same rabbis refuse to take a New Year's call from PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who names buildings and schools in honor of terrorists and who makes monthly payments to families of imprisoned and dead terrorists?

Has any of these rabbis ever publicly chastised Abbas for his conduct?

Has any of them ever demanded that the PLO and Hamas annul their formal charters, and Fatah its constitution, all of which unequivocally call for the destruction of Israel?

*William K. Langfan
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<http://www.jewishpress.com/indepth/letters-to-the-editor-477/2017/09/27/>

August 19, 2013

Not time for peace agreement

I respectfully request the advocates of 1967 borders to illustrate one fact that would indicate that Palestinian leaders have changed their minds with respect to the removal of Israel from "their" Palestinian land ("This is no way to build trust" CJN, Aug. 15).

How can anyone reasonably argue that this is the time for a Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement? Have they ceased declaring that terrorists are their heroes? Have they terminated their TV programs reeking with hate toward Jews and Israelis?

Should we not have learned from the U.S. and Allied occupation of Germany and Japan that victors in a war don't merely sign a peace agreement, as we did at Versailles? At this moment, there is absolutely no sign of a change in the mindset of the Palestinian leaders that they have altered their undiminished determination to destroy Israel.

When the Palestinian leaders can demonstrate to Israel that they will conduct themselves as Canada co-operates with us and as the various European countries live with each other, then Israel and the Palestinian leaders can meet to discuss peace.

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<http://www.cjnews.com/perspectives/opinions/letters/good-wishes-cjn>

'67 borders aren't a solution

Many well-meaning people have decided that if Israel were to return to her borders prior to the 1967 war, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would end.

When I ask advocates of this concept how they arrived at this conclusion, I receive answers such as that the Palestinians only want the area that was allocated to them in the 1947 UN vote. These people are either unaware of the Palestinian documents and speeches that call for the destruction of Israel, or they don't want to believe these very revealing facts. Neither the PLO's charter, created in 1964, nor Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party's constitution have ever been modified to eliminate clauses calling for the destruction of Israel.

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) and Middle East Media Research Institute MEMRI monitor PA media and TV. These two wonderful organizations have come forth with a continuous flow of fully documented translations of Palestinian leaders glorifying and praising Palestinian terrorists who have murdered Israeli and American civilians. PMW and MEMRI have presented us with evidence of Palestinian leaders comparing peace agreements with Israel to Muhammad's 10-year peace treaty with the Quraish tribe, which he destroyed two years after he signed the treaty. They also have presented evidence of Palestinian leaders' statements that a successful frontal attack against Israel is not possible. Therefore, they will destroy Israel in phases.

How can any objective person conclude that 1967 borders is the solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, when made aware of these salient facts?

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<http://www.cjnews.com/perspectives/opinions/letters/bring-back-kirshner-file>

The PLO Charter change never happened

A substantial reward is offered the person who can prove that the Palestinian National Council actually changed their charter calling for Israel's destruction.

William K. Langfan, 12/6/2017, י"ח בכסלו תשע"ח, "ח

Former President Clinton on Dec. 14, 1998 stated the following in response to a **raised arm verbal vote** of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) and the other ministries, reaffirming a Jan. 13, 1998 letter from Arafat to President Clinton:

"I thank you for your rejection fully, finally, and forever of the passages in the Palestinian Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, for they were the ideological underpinnings of a struggle renounced at Oslo. By revoking them once and for all, you have sent, I say again, a powerful message not to the Government but to the people of Israel. You will touch people on the street there. You will reach their hearts there. . ."

Prime Minister Netanyahu, on page 258 of his book published in the year 2000, stated the following: ". . . At our demand the Palestinian Authority annulled the passages in the PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction. . ."

The *NY Times* headline and the portion of the article on April 25, 1996 stated, "PLO Ends Call for Destruction of Jewish State": "Bowling to the insistent demands of Yasir Arafat, the main assembly of the Palestine Liberation Organization voted today to revoke the clauses in its 32-year-old charter that called for an armed struggle to destroy the Jewish state. . ."

The *NY Times* headline and the portion of the article on Dec. 15, 1998, "Clinton in the Mideast; Clinton Watches as Palestinians Drop Call for Israel's Destruction": "With President Clinton as their witness, hundreds of former Palestinian guerrilla fighters voted here today to rid their organization's charter of any clauses calling for the destruction of Israel, knocking down a critical roadblock on the rutted path to peace. . ."

PLO Charter clause changes were an absolute Palestinian obligation of the Oslo Peace Agreement. The Palestinian leaders engaged in several steps of chicanery to bamboozle the world into believing that these charter changes were made.

I unequivocally state as a fact, not as an opinion, that not one charter clause has ever been changed pursuant to clause 33 of the 1968 PLO charter.

I also state that the above President Clinton quote; the above PM Netanyahu quote; and the two *NY Times* headlines are absolutely false.

First, Clause 33 of the Charter as amended in 1968 specifically states that there can be no change to the Charter unless 2/3's of the full membership of the Palestinian National

Council and such a vote can only be made in a meeting specially noticed for an amendment change. This did not occur.

Clause one of the Resolution voted on states that the PNC decides “amending the Palestinian National Charter and cancelling the Charter’s articles opposing the exchanged letters between the PLO and the Israeli Government on September 9th and 10th, 1993. Clause 2 of the resolution states that a legal committee would be formed to draft a new Charter. The committee was never formed.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 1996 issued a communication which stated that the PLO had failed to amend the Charter’s clauses no later than May 7, 1996. It further stated that “By leaving the Covenant (the Charter) intact, the PLO sends a clear message that it has not renounced violence nor accepted Israel’s right to exist.”

In order to buttress my certainty that the Palestinian leaders have violated their obligation to change the charter, I hereby offer a **\$1,000,000 Wells Fargo check** to the first person who presents a validly voted written PNC resolution with the twelve (12) specifically annulled charter clauses and the new language of the sixteen (16) clauses which were allegedly partially annulled in Arafat's January 1998 letter to President Clinton.

It never happened.

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