

Giuliani Firmly Backed Palestine Peace Effort on Visit to Israel

To the Editor:

Re "The Mayor's Clumsy Visit,"
your editorial of March 12:

Representing the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, we were pleased to accompany Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani on his recent trip to Israel. We were there — Kenneth J. Bialkin, Judah Gribetz, Michael S. Miller, Merryll H. Tisch and I — to show solidarity with the Israeli people during their period of grief — the true purpose of the journey.

Mr. Giuliani was warmly received at each of nearly 20 stops on the 36-hour itinerary. In our view, the remarks he offered at every venue were substantive, sincere and sensitive. They were not "clumsy." It was evident that he was moved, as were we, by the specter of the physical and emotional devastation wrought by terrorism and murder.

Rather than "injecting himself" or intruding "in the delicate business of the peace effort," the Mayor was consistent in his firm support of both the peace process and Israel's efforts to combat terrorism.

His comments regarding Yasir Arafat, which were in response to a question from an Israeli reporter at a news conference, were reflective,

not critical, of current Israeli policies in holding the Palestinian Authority responsible for combating terrorism.

MARTIN S. BEGUN
President, Jewish Community
Relations Council
New York, March 13, 1996

To the Editor:

Re your editorial "The Mayor's Clumsy Visit" (March 12) on Mr. Giuliani's visit to Israel:

Mr. Giuliani's eviction of Yasir Arafat from Lincoln Center during the United Nations celebration last fall and his statement this week questioning Mr. Arafat's reliability in stopping violence are unmistakable expressions that the Mayor feels, as do many Americans and Israelis, that Mr. Arafat's promotion from terrorist to statesman has moved too speedily for comfort.



The New York Times Company

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SUNDAY, NY TIMES
MAR. 17, 1996



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

March 13, 1996

BRUCE J. TEITELBAUM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Martin Begun
Associate Dean
N.Y.U. School of Medicine
550 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Marty:

I can't begin to tell you how glad everyone at the Mayor's Office is that you joined us on our visit to Israel. My own appreciation is boundless and I know that the Mayor is grateful for your support and words of encouragement.

You, Michael, and the JCRC enhanced our trip and helped the entire Jewish community during a very difficult time.

Your leadership and the example of the JCRC should be emulated by the rest of the Jewish community. Thank you for being a friend and for all your support in Israel and here in New York. Your words of support for the Mayor at yesterday's press conference were superb!

Best regards,

Bruce J. Teitelbaum

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CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו - יורק

קונסול כללי

Visit to Israel - Mayor Giuliani

March 11 & 12, 1996

Sunday, March 10th

-
- 15:30 Arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport - to King David Hotel
 - 17:15 Depart from the Hotel to Municipality of Jerusalem
 - 17:30 Meeting with Mayor Ehud Olmert at the Municipality Building
 - 17:45 Depart from Municipality
 - 18:00 Visit with victims families
 - 18:45 Meeting with NY-Jerusalem Solidarity Committee at the Municipality
 - 20:00 Press conference
 - 21:00 Dinner given by The Mayor of Jerusalem

Overnight: King David Hotel. Tel: 972-2-251-111

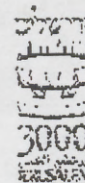
Monday, March 11th

-
- 06:30 Ride on bus # 18 and visit the bombing locations
 - 08:00 Meeting with Prime Minister Peres
 - 08:40 Breakfast with Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Opposition Leader
 - 09:30 Meeting with President Weizmann
 - 10:00 Visit "Bet Chinuch" High School
 - 10:30 Tour of Jerusalem
 - 11:00 Tree planting ceremony at Mayors Square
 - 11:45 Visit hospitalized victims at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital
 - 12:30 Helicopter tour with Major General Ilan Biran, Central Commander Officer
 - 13:00 Tour of Central Command Offices
 - 13:30 Lunch with Mayor Ehud Olmert
 - 14:30 Departure for Tel Aviv
 - 16:00 Meeting with Mr. Ehud Barak, Foreign Minister
 - 17:00 Program by Tel Aviv Municipality including dinner with special guests and a visit to the bombing site at Dizengoff Centre and Dizengoff Street.
 - 23:30 Leave for airport
 - 01:00 Depart for NY



ראש העיר
Mayor of
Jerusalem
رئيس البلدية

עיריית ירושלים
Municipality of Jerusalem
بلدية اورشليم-القدس



3000 שנה
לירושלים עיר הוד
תשנ"ז-תשנ"ז

March 6, 1996

The Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor of the City of New York

Dear Mayor Giuliani,

It is always good to talk to you, even under such tragic circumstances. I deeply appreciate your very moving and encouraging words and, particularly, your friendship and your support.

As a follow-up to our discussion several days ago when you called me, I want to reiterate here my invitation to you to come to Jerusalem in the coming days. I am certain that your visit to express the solidarity of the people of New York would give great strength to the people of Jerusalem at this difficult time.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ehud Olmert

ביכר ספרא X, ת.ד. 775, ירושלים, 91007, טלפון 02-297997, פקס 02-296014

1 Safra Square, POB 775, Jerusalem. 91007; Israel. Tel: 02-297997. Fax. 02-296014

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Howard J. Rubenstein
President

March 13, 1996

Honorable Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

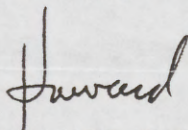
Dear Mayor:

I applaud your visit to Israel. It was sophisticated and needed. And I certainly don't agree with editorial comments to the contrary.

I have spoken to Martin Begun, and he sings your praises about this trip.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Howard J. Rubenstein

HJR:ldm

cc: Martin Begun



Jewish
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March 18, 1996

The Editor
The Jewish Week
1501 Broadway
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

As the delegation from the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, we were pleased to have accompanied Mayor Giuliani on his recent trip to Israel. We were there to show solidarity with the Israeli people during their period of grief -- the true purpose of the journey. In numerous conversations, in Hebrew and English, with Israelis from all segments of society, we found near universal praise and gratitude for the Mayor's decision to accept the invitations of the mayors of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to visit their cities in the aftermath of the terrorist bombings. Having been with the Mayor throughout his trip, we disagree with Eric Greenberg's conclusion ('I Had To Be Here,' March 15) that the reaction of Israeli citizens to the visit "could ...not be determined."

Mayor Giuliani was warmly received at each of the nearly twenty stops made during the thirty-six hour itinerary, including visits with Prime Minister Peres, Opposition Leader Netanyahu, President Weizman and Mrs. Leah Rabin (at her home). In our view, the remarks he offered at every venue were substantive, sincere and sensitive. It was quite evident that the Mayor was moved, as were we, by the specter of the physical and emotional devastation wrought by terrorism and murder.

In addition, the Mayor was consistent both in his firm support of the peace process and of the government's efforts to combat terrorism. His "assessment of Yasir Arafat," which was in response to a question from an Israeli reporter at a press conference, was reflective, not critical, of current Israeli government policies in holding the Palestinian Authority responsible for combating terrorism.

Martin S. Begun, President
Kenneth J. Bialkin, Past President
Judah Gribetz, Immediate Past President
Michael S. Miller, Executive Director
Merryl H. Tisch, Executive Committee, UJA-Federation



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Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Wasschester Jewish Center
WIZO-Women's International Zionist Organization
Women's American ORT, New York District
Workers' Circle
Zionist Organization of America

The JCRC is a beneficiary of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

March 13, 1996

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

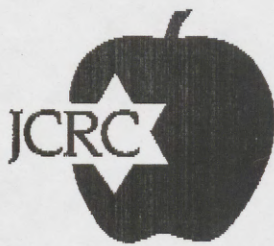
As the "small group from the New York Jewish Community Relations Council," we were pleased to have accompanied Mayor Giuliani on his recent trip to Israel. We were there to show solidarity with the Israeli people during their period of grief - - the singular purpose of the journey. In numerous conversations, in Hebrew and English, with Israelis from all segments of society, we found near universal praise and gratitude for the Mayor's decision to accept the invitations of the mayors of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to visit their cities in the aftermath of the terrorist bombings. Having been with the Mayor throughout his trip, we take exception to the characterization that "he seemed to encourage and alienate [ordinary Israelis] in almost equal measure." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Mayor Giuliani was warmly received at each of the nearly twenty stops made during the thirty-six hour itinerary, including visits with Prime Minister Peres, Opposition Leader Netanyahu, President Weizman and Mrs. Leah Rabin (at her home). In our view, the remarks he offered at every venue were substantive, sincere and sensitive. They were not "clumsy". It was quite evident that the Mayor was moved, as were we, by the specter of the physical and emotional devastation wrought by terrorism and murder.

Rather than "injecting himself" or "intrud[ing]" in the delicate business of the peace effort," the Mayor was consistent both in his firm support of the peace process and of the government's efforts to combat terrorism. His comments regarding Yasir Arafat, which were in response to a question from an Israeli reporter at a press conference, were reflective, not critical, of current Israeli government policies in holding the Palestinian Authority responsible for combating terrorism.

Incidentally, since its founding in 1976 as the umbrella for now more than sixty organizations in the New York area, the JCRC has strictly abided by a policy of refraining from engagement in domestic partisan politics and being supportive of the democratically elected government of Israel. Michael Miller, our executive director, accompanied Mayor Dinkins during his visit to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in February, 1991, when he expressed solidarity with the people of Israel during the Persian Gulf War.

Martin S. Begun, President
Kenneth J. Bialkin, Past President
Judah Gribetz, Immediate Past President
Michael S. Miller, Executive Director
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Workmen's Circle
Zionist Organization of America

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February 27, 1996

H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres
Prime Minister
State of Israel
3 Kaplan Street
Kiryat Ben Gurion
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Dear Prime Minister Peres,

Yesterday, over 200 people, of all races and religions joined New York Mayor Giuliani and Ambassador Coletta Avital at the Regency Hotel in Manhattan for a memorial to the victims of Sunday's attacks.

As chair of the program, I remarked that those tragic events in Jerusalem and Ashkelon preoccupy our thoughts. The graphic details, the photos and video, the sights and sounds of terror and death are mind numbing. Children, young adults, senior citizens, filled with love, hope and dreams, their lives were so abruptly brought to a violent halt by cowardly madmen.

While speaking on behalf of the JCRC, I believe I also expressed the sentiments of all those gathered in the hall and all other peace and freedom loving people, in strongly condemning those unspeakable acts of terror. The perpetrators of those barbaric crimes and their sponsors - Hamas and Islamic Jihad, I stated, represent the lowest levels to which mankind can descend. Their goal was to destroy life, so as to destroy peace.

On behalf of those gathered, I pledged I would convey to you, your government and the people of Israel, that we stand with you in your pursuit of peace against all odds and obstacles. Israel's desire for peace is more powerful than any explosive.

But bombs cause great pain and destruction. May I therefore ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, to please extend on behalf of our diverse gathering heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who perished and comfort to those who were wounded.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May the Almighty comfort you among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Sincerely,

Martin S. Begun
President

March 5, 1996

Hon. Roni Milo
Mayor
Tel Aviv Municipality
Rabin Square
Tel Aviv ISRAEL

Dear Mayor Milo,

Yesterday's unspeakable act of barbarism in Tel Aviv preoccupies our thoughts. The graphic details, the photos and video, the sights and sounds of terror and death are mind numbing. Children, young adults, senior citizens filled with love, hope and dreams, so abruptly had their lives brought to a violent halt by a cowardly madman.

The Jewish community of New York remains steadfast in its solidarity with you, Mr. Mayor, the people of Tel Aviv and the State of Israel during this traumatic time. Through your good offices, please extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who perished and comfort to those who were wounded.

In particular, our hearts go out to the families of the children, many dressed in their festive Purim costumes, killed in this depraved attack.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May the almighty comfort you among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Sincerely,

Martin Begun
President

Michael S. Miller
Executive Director

March 5, 1996

Hon. Ehud Olmert
Mayor
Municipality of Jerusalem
1 Safra Square
PO Box 775
Jerusalem 91007

Dear Mayor Olmert,

The recent unspeakable acts of barbarism in Jerusalem continue to preoccupy our thoughts. The graphic details, the photos and video the sights and sounds of terror and death are mind numbing. Children, young adults, senior citizens, filled with love, hope and dreams, so abruptly had their lives brought to a violent halt by cowardly madmen.

The Jewish community of New York remains steadfast in its solidarity with you, Mr. Mayor, the people of Jerusalem and the State of Israel during this traumatic time. As the Psalmist wrote, **שאלו שלום ירושלים** - we pray for peace in Jerusalem. Our hearts and prayers are also extended to the families of the victims and for the recovery of the wounded.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May the Almighty comfort you among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

Sincerely,

Martin Begun
President

Michael S. Miller
Executive Director