

# Israel News Desk

With  
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As the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians remain on hold despite Mr Kerry's best efforts we only have small pieces of leaked information, nothing official yet, although it will come. Mr Kerry is now working on several fronts and it seems his major preoccupation for the moment will be the Ukraine! By the time you have seen this, the situation is likely to have become worse.

Mr Kerry has said this week that he is "*determined*" to reach a Middle East deal, despite running into difficulty with the Palestinians. An official said "*the proposals put to Mr Abbas could not serve as the basis for a framework accord between the Palestinians and Israel as they do not take into account the rights of the Palestinians*". Mr Kerry went on he was not distracted by "*naysayers*" of either side.

Mr Kerry has visited the area 12 times since July when talks were launched and says he will soon return with proposals to complete a deal by the end of April. Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon calls Mr Kerry's efforts naïve and foolhardy and his security plan worthless, his entire approach "*obsessive and messianic*". Meantime Mr Netanyahu has demanded that the Palestinians recognise Israel as a Jewish state. He stated "*we have only been here 4000 years!*" An Israeli academic, Avraham Diskin, a moderate said "*recognition of a Jewish state is the minimal test to show the Palestinians want peace.*"

Mr Netanyahu has just returned from meeting Barrack Obama in Washington and is reported to have resisted pressure to cut a deal with the Palestinians. Mr Obama warned that time was running out, Mr Netanyahu replied "*Israel has done its part but unfortunately the Palestinians have not!*" He said "*we want peace, not a piece of paper.*" He reminded Mr Obama that the Palestinians continue to promote "*incessant violence*". Rockets in fact have dropped on Southern Israel from Gaza in the last few days and despite lack of information in the British press this is a regular occurrence.

Making matters worse Jen Psaki stated this week in an interview with "Al Quds" newspaper that Palestinians need not recognise a Jewish State!! Abu Majen the Palestinian Authority Chairman stated "*there is no chance we will recognise Israel as a Jewish state*".

**Settlements** Judea and Samaria are constantly held to be a hindrance to peace and this week the British Ambassador was summoned for an angry response from Israel's foreign ministry to its protests over settlement building. Avigdor Lieberman called in the ambassadors of Britain, France, Italy and Spain to complain about the European State. He complained of the one sided position in favour of the Palestinians and their constant heaping blame on Israel. A similar protest was made to the German Foreign Minister who was visiting Israel at the time. Mr Netanyahu at the same time accused the EU of hypocrisy for its repeated criticism of Israel's settlements in both Judea and Samaria and East Jerusalem. He also said "*when did the EU ever call in the Palestinian Ambassadors to complain about incitement that calls for Israel's destruction.*"

The summons to the European Ambassadors to the Israeli Foreign Ministry was a straight response to similar calls to Israel's Ambassadors to the Foreign Ministries of European Countries.

**David Cameron** made a belated visit to Israel this week, his first. His visit was overshadowed by a barrage of rockets from Gaza into Southern Israel and a giant row over bills passing through the Knesset and the chaotic fallout from a Foreign Ministry strike. Mr Cameron's speech to the Knesset struck all the right notes as he stated that Britain's commitment to Israel's security is rock solid. His supportive speech was well received. Perhaps he could encourage more support for Israel from our Foreign Secretary William Haig and a greater understanding of the settlement position and the position of Palestinian refugees, who have grown in number dramatically since 1948 when they voluntarily left! Were they to return Israel would cease to exist as a Jewish State. Why have the Arab countries kept them in camps to this day instead of settling them, which is normal practice? The answer is simple, as political pawns to use in the continuing effort to destroy Israel.

**Boycotts** The Co-op has been a prime leader in the anti-Semitic boycotts threatened and in some areas implemented against Israel and is now paying the price, being virtually bankrupt. A prime example of Genesis 12v3 "*Those who curse Israel will be cursed*". Even Labour's shadow Middle East Minister said this week that boycotts of Israel, "*Fed into anti-Semitic feeling*".

He did however go on to say, *"The more settlements are extended and more land is taken in the West Bank, the less probable a 2 state solution is going to be, as Palestine as a state would become unviable"*.

Joel 3 indicates the fate of nations who seek to divide Israel's land. Our politicians are heaping up trouble for our nation in a coming day. God is not mocked!

**University of Ireland** An Irish university is to conduct an investigation into the tirade of abuse aimed at a pro Israel activist. Professor Alan Johnson was lecturing at the National University of Ireland in Galway when he was barracked by anti Zionist protestors. Footage on You Tube shows a student screaming, *"\*\*\*\*\* Zionist get the \*\*\*\*\* out now, off our campus"*. A female activist shouted, *"You are racist scum"*. The following evening students voted to impose a boycott of Israel!

**Missing Plane** A Jewish man asked his travel agent to book him a seat on the MH370 plane which as I write is still missing. His travel agent, an observant Jew refused saying, *"I don't like Jews flying on the Sabbath"*. The man agreed and took a seat on an earlier flight! The man now thanks God for keeping him off the flight.

**Hezbollah** Have threatened retaliation after Israeli jets launched a bombing raid on a convoy transporting surface to surface missiles into Lebanon in an attempt to stop them reaching the terrorist group.

At a press conference with Mrs Merkel she asked Mr Netanyahu if the bombing was the work of Israel, he gave the standard answer, *"We will not speak of what we did or did not do"*. He went on, *"We do all that is necessary to defend our citizens"*. Israel has also stated they will not allow *"game changing weapons to reach Hezbollah"*.

**New Missile System** Israel has successfully tested a new system that detects missiles fired at commercial planes by changing their direction. Tests were said to be 100% successful.

**Germany** Whilst saying Germany regards Iran as a threat to Europe, Mrs Merkel, during a visit to Israel would not endorse Israel's demand that Iran give up its sensitive nuclear protests. She also reiterated Berlin's opposition to *"settlements on occupied land"*. Her speech to the Knesset was less supportive than that of Mr Cameron. One is reminded of the words in Matthew 7v20 *"By their fruits you will know them"*! We have seen on many occasions that politicians speak with *"forked tongue"*. Time will tell where they really stand!

**Jordan** has expelled the Israeli Ambassador after Israel's MK's debated whether to take over the Temple Mount, currently administered by Jordan.

**Anatoly Sharanski** The head of the Jewish Agency has offered emergency assistance to Ukrainian Jews. He said, *"We have a moral responsibility to ensure the safety and security of Ukrainian Jews"*.

**Christ At The Checkpoint** We shall soon have reports from the latest pro Palestinian conference which Christians are advised to keep away from. No mention of the fact that the *"wall"* they object to has saved Israel from suicide bombers will be made and the occasion is just an opportunity for Israel bashing, no doubt led by Stephen Sizer well known as a virulent opponent of God's ancient people.

**Purim** As our Jewish friends celebrate the feast of Esther; let's pray for them, there are many Hamans' in the world today seeking Israel's destruction. God bless Israel – He will. Zechariah 8v23 draws ever closer. Soon before that we shall be taken into His presence.