

ADL crowd rallies to subvert Mideast peace

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Where the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) really stands on the issue of Middle East peace was answered on Oct. 10 at the Gateway Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. Under the auspices of the American Leadership Conference, a collection of ADL operatives and hangers-on gathered to rail against the Rabin-Arafat accords and to launch a drive to reinstall the Likud party in power under the direction of Benjamin Netanyahu, a staunch opponent of the land-for-peace plan. Among the speakers were several with longstanding ADL ties:

- **Dr. Uri Ra'an**, the patron of convicted Israeli-Soviet spy Jonathan Jay Pollard and the one-time Israeli intelligence liaison to B'nai B'rith. Ra'an, who was recruited and trained by British intelligence in the 1950s before migrating to Israel, headed the national security studies program at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University in the late 1970s and shepherded both Pollard and ADL operative Mira Lansky Boland into jobs with Naval Intelligence and the CIA, respectively. In the early 1960s, Ra'an, then with the Israeli embassy in Washington, was caught setting up a Mossad spy ring at B'nai B'rith headquarters. Ra'an has been a frequent lecturer at ADL-sponsored seminars on Arab terrorism.

- **Rael Jean Isaac**, a founder of Americans for a Safe Israel, an author frequently published by the ADL, and a speaker at ADL forums on terrorism. For years Isaac and her husband worked closely with John Rees, a British-born spook who acknowledges that his front group, the Maldon Institute, is heavily bankrolled by the ADL.

- **Yossef Bodansky**, a one-time analyst for Israeli Air Force Intelligence and currently the director of the House Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. Bodansky is also the director of Middle East analysis at Rees's Maldon Institute and penned a March 1993 propaganda tome called *Target America: Terrorism in the U.S. Today*, based on information fed to him by hardliners inside the Israeli Defense Force who are seeking to foment a holy war against Islam. The same IDF intelligence channels authored a December 1992 report that was published by the ADL claiming that the United States was harboring Islamic fundamentalist terrorist networks.

Other speakers at the rally for war included: Midge Decter, Eugene Rostow, Douglas Feith, and Harvey Friedman. Friedman was a vice president of the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) until last summer, when he was forced to resign over a foul-mouthed public attack against

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, a leading go-between in the secret talks with the PLO.

Familiar role for ADL

The presence of so many ADL fellow-travelers at the neo-conservative anti-peace rally is hardly a surprise. As early as 1975, the ADL was engaged in a vicious propaganda war against political economist Lyndon LaRouche because of his proposal for a durable peace in the Middle East based on economic development. LaRouche traveled to Baghdad in the spring of 1975 and later held a series of meetings in New York City with senior Israeli government officials, including Foreign Minister and U.N. Ambassador Abba Eban, to discuss details of his economic development plan. ADL considered this treachery and spent millions of dollars to smear LaRouche as an anti-Semite and seek his elimination.

Since January 1993, evidence has surfaced as a result of a San Francisco police probe that the ADL carried out the same kind of dirty tricks against hundreds of political and civil rights groups and tens of thousands of activists. Many targets of the ADL are Jewish peace activists, including Yigal Arens, son of former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and leaders of American Friends of Peace Now and New Jewish Agenda. All these groups advocated some variant on the land-for-peace solution to the Israel-Palestine crisis that is now being pursued by the Rabin government and Yasser Arafat.

Any thoughts of peace were absent at the Crystal City symposium. Speaker after speaker rose to denounce the Rabin-Arafat accords and at least five members of the Jewish Defense League were allowed to speak from the floor in support of the policy of "mass transfers," i.e., the forced violent expulsion of all Palestinians from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Israel.

Isaac screamed that even the Camp David Accords were too much, arguing that Egypt was the most anti-Semitic country in the world and that President Hosni Mubarak had broken every clause of Camp David.

Midge Decter called any talk of peace "sinful." Only a massive Israeli military deterrent, she argued, can keep peace with a permanently hostile Arab world. "Animosity" is the only path to security, she said.

Despite the rhetoric, the general mood among the 500 or so Zionist hardliners who attended the event was demoralization over the dramatic progress toward peace and the apparent widespread support the Rabin-Arafat agreements have won among Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The ADL meeting is, however, a warning for those who are toying with the idea of bringing in the World Bank or other wrecker-institutions to direct the economic features of the accord. If the peace process falters, there are plenty of zealots, like the ADLers who gathered at the Marriott, who are prepared to take any steps, including terrorism and provoking regional war, to prevent the realization of peace in the Middle East.