

Prime Minister. With Peres as his Foreign Minister, and in collaboration with an avowed enemy, Yasser Arafat, the Oslo Peace process was initiated. Central to this process was the understanding that peace could be attained only through a policy of mutual economic development, and not by political arrangements alone.

Changing Axioms

Leah Rabin is explicit in attributing the breakthrough represented by the Oslo Accord, to her husband's willingness to break with the axioms of the past. To exemplify this, she quotes the speech he gave to the Knesset (parliament) on July 13, 1992, when he presented his cabinet. "We shall change the national order of priorities. Israel is no longer an isolated nation, nor is it correct that the entire world is against us. We must rid ourselves of the isolation that has gripped us almost for half a century."

With this speech, Rabin returned to a theme central to the Zionism put forward by David Ben-Gurion, Israel's Founding Father, and shared by those German Jews, such as Leah Rabin's father, who came to Palestine seeking shelter from the anti-Semitism they had experienced in their native land. Israel must not be a new ghetto, with its sole purpose being to provide a safe haven for Jews fleeing persecution. It must become a nation among other nations, a light to the world, living in peace with its neighbors, in common cause, to develop prosperity in the region.

Security, Rabin added, no longer depends solely on military strength. "Security is not only a tank, an aircraft, a missile ship. Security is also a man's education, housing, schools, his street and neighborhood, the society in which he grew up. And security is also that man's hope."

It was Rabin's willingness to change axioms that made his wife most proud of him. And it was the courage to fight for those changes which cost him his life. Rabin's killer, Yigal Amir, emerged from an environment of hatred, populated by racist, extremist Jewish fundamentalists. Leah Rabin knew, that if peace were to be attained, it were necessary to battle to extirpate this element, which her husband had once denounced as "a noxious weed, foreign to Judaism."

She held former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu partially responsible for the climate of hatred which took her husband's life, as one who was at the center of a conspiracy. "It is my belief," she wrote, "that Yitzhak was murdered by a conspiracy. Whether the act itself was the result of a conspiracy, I don't know, and I'm not sure that it matters. He was certainly the victim of an intellectual conspiracy—a conspiracy every bit as calculating and lethal."

A core of extremists, she charged, including rabbis, "inspired attitudes that led to the murder." The murderer was led to believe "he was fulfilling a holy mission sanctioned by them—that the 'holy land' of Judea and Samaria is more holy than the life of the prime minister who was willing to compromise on this land, for peace."

Once, in a public appearance shortly after the death of her husband, she was asked by an old comrade of his from the Palmach, "Where, O Where, are there others like that man?" In her answer to this question, we see the optimism and fighting spirit of this brave, courageous woman, who has now departed, shine through her tears. "As great a challenge as it may be [to find others like her husband], our greatest duty is to find them, to nurture them, and to support the men and women who will carry Yitzhak's vision forward and breathe life into his legacy. And we ourselves must have the courage to seek the peace of the brave."

Leah Rabin was surely one of those, who demonstrated the courage to seek the peace of the brave.

'Leah Rabin Has Died'

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

There will be many statements in honor of the recently deceased Leah Rabin. That will be good. From some, including those of high official rank, a simple statement will often do what is required of them on this saddening occasion. From me, to be true to my own nature in this matter, something akin in spirit to what is called a *Festschrift*, in honor of her memory, were more suitable.

For nearly a century and a half, Western and Central Europe were plunged into something like the 14th-Century New Dark Age, by religious wars. This living nightmare came to a close only with that 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years' War. Those among us who have studied how that blessed peace came about, give a special place of honor to those, especially from among combatants, who attempted to bring about a peace at the mid-point of that continuing hecatomb, but whose efforts were frustrated. The murdered husband of Leah Rabin was such an heroic figure, and she has earned full honors for her heroic efforts in continuing that same cause after his death.

If peace and justice were to be brought finally to that region of the Middle East, we must never lose sight of the circumstances under which she had lately continued that effort for what to many must have seemed to so many a losing cause. Those in the future who are challenged to walk a similar pathway with such courage and determination as she has shown, must reflect on the example she has set, and wonder whether they, too, might find the strength within themselves to continue the necessary fight for some urgent, but still presently losing cause, a cause which must be ultimately won for the good of all humanity. She is entitled to receive victory at our hands, even after her death, so that others might find in her example, the honor to act with the commitment for which many among us had come to admire her so much.