

## **EU: ACCEPT 'TWO-STATES' OR ELSE**

BY GIL RONEN / ARUTZ SHEVA



March 30/09. The European Union (EU) has resorted to making vague threats against Israel's Prime Minister-designate, Binyamin Netanyahu, to pressure him to support the "the two-state solution," which calls for the creation of an Arab state of Palestine inside the current borders of the Jewish State.

EU members spoke on the subject after a weekend session of EU foreign ministers that was held at the Hluboka castle in the Czech Republic – which is the EU's current rotating president.

Czech Foreign Minister Karel Swarzenberg was asked whether a failure to reach a two-state agreement between Israel and the PA would hurt the EU's relations with Israel, and answered: "The relations would certainly become problematic. We shall discuss the repercussions of this matter in one of our next meetings," he said.

German Foreign Minister Franz-Walter Steinmeier said that "we Europeans insist that, regardless of the governments on both sides, the two-state solution must top the agenda."

Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said that the upgrading of trade relations between the EU and Israel depends on the conclusion of a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Some of the EU foreign ministers seem to be drawing encouragement from U.S. President Barack Obama's statements on the subject this week. Obama's commitment to the Middle East "peace process" early in his term means "there is real hope for progress in the region," Swarzenberg said.

This is the second time in less than a month that the EU has threatened Israel with dire consequences if it does not agree to the "two-state" solution. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana warned that the EU would "reevaluate its ties with Israel" if the new government does not continue down the road to the creation of a state of Palestine.

"Let me say very clearly that the way the European Union will relate to an Israeli government that is not committed to a two-state solution will be very, very different," he said earlier this month.

<http://au.mg2.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch>

## **NETANYAHU PRESENTS NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT**

**BY CHUCK MISSLER**

April 1/09. Benjamin Netanyahu has managed to form a coalition government, a necessity since his Likud party does not hold enough seats in the Knesset to pass any legislation. He presented his new cabinet on Tuesday - a collection of ministers from several different (and often conflicting) parties. While Israelis – and the world – hope for peace and stability in the Holy Land, past failures have tilted public opinion toward cynicism. Netanyahu's strong interest in Israel's security and his current broad-based coalition may have a chance to bring more stability than Israel has seen in a long time... if his government can hold together.

Netanyahu told the Knesset on Monday that he would do his "utmost to achieve a just and lasting peace with all our neighbors." While in the past he has been considered hawkish in his fight to protect Israel's security, Netanyahu is now being considered more "pragmatic." His coalition includes groups on both the Right and the Left, and makes up an interesting collection in Israel's parliament:

The list of parties in the coalition:

*Likud – 27 seats*

*Yisrael Beiteinu – 15 seats*

*Labour – 13 seats*

*Shas – 11 seats*

*Jewish Home – 3 seats*

These 69 seats give Netanyahu a fair majority in the 120-seat Knesset. His cabinet alone will be one of the largest in history with as many as 30 ministers. He's had to order a new table to seat everybody.

In the meanwhile, Netanyahu has expressed interest in peace and cooperation with key players, including the Palestinians and United States. Netanyahu's English is excellent; he spent part of his youth in Philadelphia and graduated from MIT. While there has been skepticism that he will cooperate with the United States after having butted heads with Bill Clinton in the 1990s, Netanyahu has said he believes he can work with Obama. He has met with the new US President twice and believes Obama is "open to new ideas."

[READ COMMENTARY AND DETAILS OF MAKEUP OF THE GOVERNMENT >](#)

<http://bible-prophecy-today.blogspot.com/2009/04/bibi-presents-new-israeli-government.html>

## **ALL-OUT DIPLOMATIC WAR AGAINST ISRAEL** **ENDING ISRAEL'S CONDITIONAL LEGITIMACY**

- BY CAROLINE B. GLICK

April 3/09. In the chanceries of Europe, the die has apparently been cast. The time has come to launch an all-out diplomatic war against Israel. That is, the time has come to begin to unravel EU acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

Last Friday, in anticipation of the swearing in of the new Netanyahu government, EU foreign ministers met in Prague and discussed how they would stick it to the Jews.

According to media reports, the assembled ministers and diplomats decided that they will freeze the process of upgrading EU relations with Israel until Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu explicitly commits his government to establishing a Palestinian state and accepts that the only legitimate policy an Israeli government can have is the so-called "two-state solution."

Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, whose country currently holds the rotating EU Presidency reportedly summed up the new approach saying, "There won't be any progress in relations between Israel and the European Union until the Israeli government clarifies its stance on the creation of a Palestinian state."

On an operational level, the assembled ministers and diplomats decided to cancel the Israel-EU summit now scheduled for late May until Israel has bowed to Europe's demand.

Europe's decision to launch a preemptive strike against the Netanyahu government even before it was sworn into office on Tuesday came against the backdrop of its growing enthusiasm for opening formal ties with *Hamas*. As the *Jerusalem Post* reported on Thursday, [Europe's diplomatic courtship of the Iranian-sponsored genocidal terror group](#) is being spearheaded by Sweden and Switzerland. But they are far from alone.

Britain's Foreign Minister David Miliband has in recent weeks openly called for recognizing Hamas. France is reportedly using its involvement in the attempts to secure the release of Israeli hostage Gilad Schalit from his Hamas-controlled captors to advance its own bilateral ties to the jihadist group. At last Friday's meeting, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht reportedly also called for Europe to open ties with Hamas.

In its move to isolate Israel - and indeed to treat the only free country in the Middle East as if it is morally and politically inferior to Hamas - the EU reportedly believes that it is acting in concert with the Obama administration. Since entering office, and increasingly in recent weeks, the Obama administration has been both directly and indirectly signaling that it will adopt a hostile stance towards Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his government.

READ FULL ARTICLE>

<http://jewishworldreview.com/0409/glick040309.php3>

**ISLAMIC RADICALS THREATEN TO ATTACK WASHINGTON**  
**APRIL 1ST MARKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRANIAN**  
**REVOLUTION**

BY [JOEL C. ROSENBERG](#)

April 1/09. How did Washington miss it? Netanyahu understands Iran threat today, does Obama?

***FLASH:*** [Islamic Radicals threaten to attack Washington directly — “Soon we will launch an attack in Washington that will amaze everyone in the world ... The maximum they can do is martyr me. But we will exact our revenge on them from inside America.”](#)

It was thirty years ago today that the Ayatollah Khomeini declared Iran to be the world’s first “Islamic Republic,” that is, the first country in human history that would be governed by Sharia law, the laws of the Qur’an. Yet as I document in my new book, [Inside the Revolution](#), the Carter administration at the time completely missed the explosion of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the fall of the Shah, the rise of Khomeini, and later the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran that led to 52 Americans being held hostage for 444 humiliating days.

Admiral Stansfield Turner, the director of the CIA under President Carter, would later admit in his memoirs,

“We in the CIA served the president badly with respect to our coverage of the Iranian scene....We had not appreciated how shaky the Shah’s political foundation was; did not know the Shah was terminally ill; did not understand who Khomeini was and the support his movement had; did not have a clue as to who the hostage-takers were or what their objective was....We were just plain asleep.”

Thirty years later, the question is: Does the Obama administration understand who the leaders of Iran are today? Do they understand the eschatology — or End Times theology — held by the current Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and how such deeply held religious beliefs are driving Iranian foreign policy and military doctrine? Do they understand that Iran’s current leaders believe they have been chosen by God to bring about the end of the world, that this is why they are hell-bent on acquiring or building nuclear weapons?

[READ FULL ARTICLE>](#)

<http://bible-prophecy-today.blogspot.com/2009/04/april-1st-marks-30th-anniversary-of.html>

## **OBAMA BOWS BEFORE SAUDI PLAN**

BY MAAYANA MISKIN

April 3/09. US President Barack Obama was caught on camera by journalists on Wednesday bowing in deference to Saudi King Abdullah as he greeted him at the opening of the G20 meeting in London, prior to being photographed with British royalty.

Obama later expressed [support for the 2002 Saudi Plan](#) in his meeting with the Saudi monarch. The two also discussed global economic issues and terrorism.

The meeting between Obama and Abdullah was the first face-to-face talk between the two. The meeting created a storm of debate, primarily among American conservatives, when pictures [and a video](#) were released that appeared to show Obama bowing to the Saudi monarch at the G20 photo-op.

Obama reportedly expressed support for the 2002 Saudi Initiative upon winning the presidential election in November of 2008.

In his first meeting with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, Obama had been quoted as saying of the plan, “The Israelis would be crazy not to support this initiative.”

In January of 2009, Saudi officials warned that the U.S. would need to “drastically revise” its Middle East policy, particularly towards Israel, if it wanted to maintain influence in the region.

"If the U.S. wants to continue playing a leadership role in the Middle East and keep its strategic alliances intact – especially its 'special relationship' with Saudi Arabia – it will have to drastically revise its policies vis-a-vis Israel and Palestine,” former Saudi ambassador Prince Turki al-Faisal said at the time.

Turki referred to the Middle East policy of former U.S. President George Bush as “sickening,” and accused America of “contributing to the slaughter of innocents” by supporting Israel.

Bush expressed strong support for the creation of a PA state, but supported the 2003 Road Map initiative over the Saudi Plan. [The Road Map plan calls for the Israel-PA negotiations process to take place in stages, with Israel dismantling Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria only after the PA begins to fight terrorism.](#)

[The Saudi Plan calls on Israel to cede Gaza and all land east of the 1949 armistice line, including much of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, to the Palestinian Authority. Israel would also be required to cede the strategic Golan Heights region to Syria. In addition, the plan requires Israel to release all terrorists currently in its prisons, and to offer citizenship to millions of foreign Arabs who say they are descended from Arabs who fled pre-state Israel during the War of Independence. In exchange, Arab states would normalize their ties with the Jewish State.](#)

In Israel, the plan has met with little support. Enacting the plan would force roughly **600,000 Israelis** from their homes. In addition, senior defense officials have warned that the plan would **compromise Israel's security**.

<http://au.mg2.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch?.gx=1&.rand=491eriqli9vev>

## US AWARDS IRAN ROLE AS MILITARY PARTNER

### OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS A BITTER PILL FOR ISRAEL TO SWALLOW

#### DEBKAF/FILE EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS



ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. GABY ASHKENAZI

Ap 4/09. Only two weeks ago, Israel's chief of staff Lt. Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi, then visiting Washington, was denied interviews with US defense secretary Robert Gates and the chairman of the US chiefs of staff Adm. Mike Mullen. He cut short his visit after seeing national security adviser Gen. James Jones and Iran envoy Dennis Ross, lesser lights in terms of their direct influence on President Barack Obama.

Since then, the US president has decided the snub was ill-judged.

During 2008 and up until his exit from the White House, George W. Bush found Ashkenazi useful for conveying to the former PM, Ehud Olmert and defense minister Ehud Barak his administration's strong objections to an Israeli military strike on Iran's nuclear sites. The US effort to hold Israel's hand brought Mullen and an array of top US generals calling at the chief of staff's Tel Aviv headquarters almost every ten days in the last months of 2008.

Mullen wanted to keep this effort afloat, but president Obama thought otherwise, which is why Ashkenazi was so coolly received in Washington in mid-March.

However, the inception of Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister with Barak held over at defense occasioned a spate of declarations which worried the new administration: Netanyahu declared at his swearing-in last Tuesday that if American sanctions and diplomacy fail, Israel will be forced to take action against Iran's nuclear weapon drive and time was running out. His words were echoed by Barak.

Obama therefore decided to revive the Ashkenazi track, while he was still abroad at the G20 in London and the NATO summit at Strasbourg, and before visiting Istanbul next week. He feared that Israel might upset his broad strategic appletart which hinges on the co-option of Iran as its primary hinge.

Ashkenazi was therefore invited to Strasbourg to carry some more bad news to his government, i.e. that the Obama administration wants Iran as its key military and intelligence partner for resolving America's Afghanistan-Pakistan (known now as "Afgpak") predicament. The shape of this alliance lacks final form; backdoor US-Iranian meetings at various levels are in progress at different venues to determine how far Tehran is willing to go. But the US president has set his course.

The high points of the proposed collaboration were first revealed exclusively by DEBKA-Weekly 390 of March 27 and 391 of April 3.

Its impact was sensed at the NATO summit in Strasbourg.

Aside from UK premier Gordon Brown, NATO leaders by and large refused the US president's appeal for more troops to fight in Afghanistan. German chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy told Obama there was no point in sending reinforcements to Afghanistan if US troops were on their way out, especially after Washington had opted for an "Iranian solution" for the conflict without reference to Berlin or Paris.

The Obama administration has a bitter pill for Israel to swallow for the sake of progress toward a strategic collaboration with Tehran on Afghanistan and Pakistan. It cuts close to the bone in terms of Israel's security and international standing:

1. Washington will not brook any unilateral Israeli military action that might upset US-Iranian moves towards cooperation in the Afgpak Arena.
2. Washington will apply all its resources to obstruct such action.
3. It will not be enough for Israel to stand idle as Iran develops a nuclear bomb. The Obama administration also has fish to fry with Taliban and is bent on an urgent breakthrough in Israel-Arab peacemaking for dividends relevant to this arena too.

Israel can therefore expect to be squeezed hard for sweeping concessions to Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians in order to enhance America's hand on both these tracks.

4. This will bring Jerusalem's Arab opponents to the negotiating table with loaded dice and no bar to treating Israel as the weak party.

The tidings Ashkenazi brings back to Jerusalem from Strasbourg will not be news because Israel officials have been aware of the state of play between Obama and Tehran for some weeks. The only question is how Adm. Mullen packaged his briefing: Did he offer the Israeli chief of staff the chance of military coordination with the United States alongside its evolving pact with Iran? Or simply outline the new situation as a take-it or leave-it proposition?

<http://www.debka.com/article.php?aid=1384>

## THE G20 SUMMIT



G20 world leaders have revealed their communiqué to tackle the global economic crisis. UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced the \$1.1 trillion deal as he closed the G20 summit.

Here is a summary of the key points:

### **FINANCIAL REGULATION**

- A new Financial Stability Board, with a strengthened mandate, will replace the Financial Stability Forum
- Financial regulation and oversight will be extended to all financial institutions, instruments and markets
- This includes bringing hedge funds within the global regulatory net for the first time
- Members are committed to implementing tough new rules on pay and bonuses at a global level
- International accounting standards will be set
- Credit rating agencies will be regulated in order to remove their conflicts of interest
- A common approach to cleaning up banks' toxic assets has been agreed

### **TAX HAVENS**

- There will be sanctions against tax havens that do not transfer information on request
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has published a list of countries assessed by the Global Forum against the international standard for exchange of tax information

### **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

- Resources available to the International Monetary Fund will be trebled to \$750bn
- This includes a new overdraft facility, or special drawing rights allocation, of \$250bn
- Additional resources of \$6bn from agreed IMF gold sales will be made available for lending to the poorest countries
- The G20 also supports increased lending to the world's poorest countries of at least \$100bn by the multilateral development banks

### ***GLOBAL TRADE***

- There will be a commitment of \$250bn of support for trade finance made over the next two years
- This will be made available through export credit and investment agencies, as well as through multilateral development banks
- National regulators will be asked to make use of available flexibility in capital requirements for trade finance

### ***PROTECTIONISM***

- The G20 has pledged to resist protectionism
- There will be a commitment to naming and shaming countries that breach free trade rules
- The G20 will notify the World Trade Organization (WTO) of any measures that constrain worldwide capital flows
- The G20 has called on the WTO to monitor and report publicly on these undertakings on a quarterly basis

### ***FISCAL STIMULUS***

- Although there is no new fiscal stimulus, Gordon Brown said G20 countries are already implementing "the biggest macroeconomic stimulus the world has ever seen" - an injection of \$5tn by the end of next year.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7979682.stm>