

The Geneva Peace Accord And ‘Nathan the Wise’

by Our Special Correspondent

Top Israeli and Palestinian organizers and backers of the Geneva Accord were hosted in Berlin on Jan. 15 by the Social-Democrat-connected Frederick Ebert Stiftung. Their overflow audience of over 300 included some 20 members of the German Parliament, diplomats, representatives of German think-tanks and foreign policy institutions, and press.

Featured among the panel participants were the originators of the initiative, former Israeli Minister of Justice Dr. Yossi Beilin and PLO Executive Committee Member Abbed Rabbo. Former Israeli Ambassador to Germany Avi Primor also spoke, as did Prof. Yael Tamir and Dany Levi from Israel; and Palestinian leaders Suhair Manassre, Kadura Fares, and Marwan Jilani. It is difficult to capture the remarkable agapic spirit—deliberately rising above all pettiness and rage—radiated to the audience by both the Israeli and Palestinian organizers. It moved LaRouche representative Jonathan Tennenbaum, in a well-received intervention from the floor, to evoke the memory of Berlin’s Gotthold Lessing and Moses Mendelssohn.

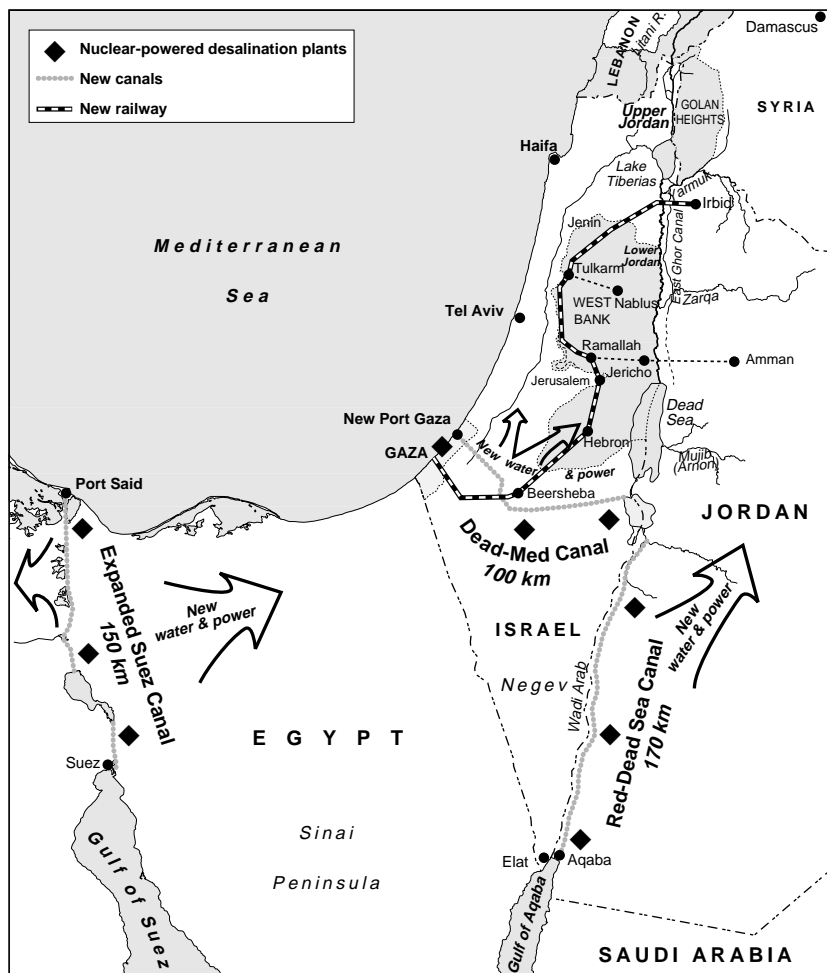
Overcoming ‘Moments of Despair’

Abbed Rabbo described the resolve of Beilin and himself, starting in 2001, “to reverse the growing disaster” in the region by continuing on their own, the negotiation process they had been forced to break off as official representatives. “During two years of continuous work, there were many moments when we felt despair. Are we doing the right thing, with the insanity going on around us? By producing a document based on realistic options, maybe we could help turn the tide of events.”

Beilin emphasized that the Geneva initiative negotiations deliberately dealt with the whole range of detailed issues which nearly everyone on both sides had avoided, out of fear of opening up a “Pandora’s box syndrome.” They proved, instead, that these issues could be mutually resolved *in their entirety*. The key now, is to win over the minds and hearts of as much of the population on both sides as possible. “Already 40% on both sides essentially support the initiative, and that is already almost a miracle.”

Through their present international tour, the Geneva Accord organizers hope to gain support from major governments and institutions—leverage to change the political balance in their own region. They reported on the “great success” of their

Features of the LaRouche 'Oasis Plan'



talks with the German government, which has thrown “total support” behind the Geneva Accord. But both Israelis and Palestinians voiced harsh criticism of the Bush Administration. Avi Primor stressed that the only the United States possesses “every means needed to quickly bring about peace in the region. But this is evidently not the intention. There is only lip service to the cause of peace.”

With the United States refusing to put the necessary pressure on the governments, the Geneva organizers decided to go directly to the people. Beilin added, that “American involvement is not a *sine qua non*”; after all, the Oslo negotiations were carried out entirely between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, without any U.S. participation. “Warren Christopher did not change a single comma,” but the American government did put its weight behind the agreement, once it had been made. On the other hand, several speakers prominently cited the promise of Secretary of State Colin Powell’s letter to the Accord organizers.

The recent distribution of the text of the Accord to all

Israeli households was, by itself, a kind of revolution, since most Israelis had never seen any of the *previous* agreements in their actual text.

The Berlin discussion heated up, with Israeli and Palestinian “radicals” in the audience shouting objections back and forth to each other and the podium. Beilin smiled and said, “Now we seem to be at home. Now we got into the real debate, which is not an artificial one.”

The ‘Oasis Plan’

Early in the discussion, LaRouche representative Tennenbaum evoked the memory of Berlin’s Lessing and Mendelssohn, declaring to the Accord organizers: “You have spoken with the voice of Reason. This is a sign of hope for humanity. Your presentations are out of the pages of [Lessing’s drama] *Nathan the Wise*. I will do everything I can to support these efforts.” Tennenbaum emphasized the necessity of realizing the common interests of Israelis and Palestinians, through a long-term development perspective for the region. Given the thrust of Lyndon LaRouche’s long-standing efforts in this direction, including the “Oasis Plan”—which had been echoed in the annexes to the Oslo accords—he suggested that the time has come for a comprehensive development plan, and for European and other nations to support it. Tennenbaum also noted the efforts of LaRouche and his movement to turn Amer-

ican policy in the current U.S. political battles.

Former Israeli Ambassador Primor answered enthusiastically and at length. “We have to think: What is peace, really?” he said. “A peace agreement, by itself, only makes peace *possible*. But a real peace requires the realization of common interests. At the time of the Oslo accords, we deliberately emphasized trans-regional development plans as key to a comprehensive peace. With such an approach, also Syria could quickly be brought to the negotiating table. Unfortunately, this perspective went down with the collapse of the Oslo process. Now, the precondition is the establishment of a Palestinian state. . . . But there is no reason not to work *now* on elaborating development plans for the future.” As a crucial example, he took the water problem. “There is simply not enough water in the region. The only solution is to *produce* water by desalination. But this is much too expensive when done on a small scale. We are far too small and too poor to tackle this all by ourselves. That is why we need international support.”