

FAX NO. 00302 0 33320121 1, 2

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Press Conference Transcript
Petra, Jordan
November 12, 1999

Question: (garbled)

First Lady: Yesterday, the American delegation that was present with me heard the comments about longtime ecological damage and the carcinogenic effects and as I pointed out in my statement last night I do not believe that any kind of public inflammatory comments or rhetoric is helpful to the peace process and is, in fact, contrary to the agreement that Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat made at Oslo to avoid such a public comment and instead look forward the negotiating table. Now I later learned that there were other translations or interpretations of the comments that were not apparent or known to us earlier, and of course if they were even more inflammatory and baseless that would cause greater concern on behalf of everyone who is supporting the peace process. I would reiterate, in the strongest possible terms, that the agreement that was reached at Oslo between the Prime Minister and the Chairman should apply to all of us and that everyone who supports this effort or is involved in the outstanding issues among the parties should refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and baseless accusations and from any public comment that could in anyway affect adversely what the parties are attempting to do.

Question: (Garbled) How do you see the situation of women in Jordan? (garbled)
And, part two, how can we transform the region to one of milk and honey instead of blood and destruction?

First Lady: Well those are two very important questions. I believe that Jordan has made extraordinary progress in the last years under the leadership of the late King Hussein and that progress will continue under the current leadership. Certainly one of the areas that needs attention is the role that women play in Jordan and throughout the region. Because we now know that where women are granted the full opportunity to pursue education and to be able to participate fully in their society, that the society as a whole prospers and is more successful in the long run. So on behalf of the countless, talented, extraordinary women of Jordan- one of whom is standing right here, Her Royal Highness, Princess Aisha, I know that the government and the people of Jordan are looking for greater opportunities to include women in the full range of social and economic and political participation and I certainly applaud that because it is certainly in the interest of Jordan to do that.

Question: (garbled)

First Lady: I would go anywhere I can to help the peace process. I think that we have a special opportunity and obligation in the United States, as my husband has demonstrated by word and deed on numerous occasions, to support those who are willing to pursue peace and who are willing to turn away from terror and war. I went to Ramallah yesterday because I am a strong supporter of the peace process and I

believe it is in everyone's interest to resolve the dispute at the negotiating table and not behind barricades.

Now, having said that, as I said earlier, that I do not believe that any kind of inflammatory rhetoric or baseless charges are good for the peace process. I think that everyone should abide by the agreement reached between Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat at Oslo, and that we ought to leave the talking to the negotiators and those of us who are supporting the process should be especially sensitive to what we say and how we conduct ourselves. As I said in the Rabin lecture last night, this is an opportunity that comes once every generation. Everything we hoped for in Israel, in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, across this region really depends now on whether those who truly wish to see a lasting peace in the Middle East are able to do the hard work of bringing that peace about. So I do not think that it benefits that ultimate outcome for anyone from any part of the Middle East or anywhere else in the world to engage in rhetoric or to make charges or statements that could adversely affect the process. You know, to the gentleman who asked the question before, the real issue is how do we, in the words of Yitzhak Rabin that I quoted last night in the lecture I made, how do we try to achieve that promised land of peace and security, milk and honey instead of blood and tears? It is not going to come easily, there will be many bumps in the road and obstacles, there certainly continue to be many enemies of peace who will do everything in their power to derail this process, and there will be unfortunate incidents when people say or do things that are not considered useful. But that should not in any way undermine our commitment to stand in support of those who are willing to take risks for peace. The negotiations that are currently being conducted are ones that the United States strongly supports, and that everyone of us who believes in the promise of peace and security for Israel, for Jordan, for the Palestinians, for everyone in the region, ought to be focused on that overall goal and should not let anything deter us from trying to do everything we can to support peace and negotiations.

Question: (garbled) hosts graciously invited you...to meeting in East Jerusalem?

First Lady: I don't think it's useful to comment on any of the issues that are part of the final status negotiations. I certainly will not.

Question: How do you respond to criticism that you responded too slowly to the comments of Mrs. Arafat and that the Mayor would have quickly denounce those comments. Do you feel you responded at the appropriate time?

First Lady: I believe that everyone in the American delegation that heard what was said, believed it was part of a very common pattern of complaints that have been heard for decades and were not worthy of any particular comment at that time. Now obviously if what had later been reported had been the translation that any of us heard, there might very well have been a reason to respond at that moment. But that is not the situation that occurred yesterday. So whatever the facts are about the translation or the mistranslation or what the words did or didn't mean, I think the overall point is to refrain from such rhetoric or such complaints while this process of negotiations is going on. And I don't think it's useful for anyone to engage in that kind of rhetoric or inflammatory statements at this point in time.

Question: Were you disappointed that the Palestinians used your visit to further...

First Lady: Well, I went to Ramallah because I do believe in the peace process and I believe that the United States has a very important role in bringing the parties together as often as possible and in demonstrating that we stand behind this process. And I also believe very strongly that the question of women, that promoting women's health and children's health is part of the peace process; it is a way of demonstrating clearly that a lot of people have better lives because peace. So that's why I went, and that's what I intended to do there, and that's what I did. So from that perspective it is unfortunate that there are any questions about what was a very straightforward occasion and the reasons for it. But you know, we're in the Middle East. This is a very complicated region with a lot of very strongly held feelings and opinions that people have and part of the great challenge that the leaders face is creating an atmosphere in which peace can take place not only at the negotiating table but in the words and deeds of all of the citizens of the Middle East.

I said last night in the Rabin lecture, this is not an easy task. This is as difficult an undertaking as human beings have ever attempted. I want to be on the side of those, along with the President, who will do everything we can to keep taking whatever steps are necessary to bring about a lasting, secure peace to the people of this region. That is up to the parties to negotiate, however, and none of us is in the position that any of them is. So I believe it is in our interest in the United States to do what the President has done so well in the past six and a half years, and that is continue to push this process forward, and not be deterred, and not turn back, and to do everything we can to make it possible for it to succeed.

Mrs. Clinton criticizes Palestinian officials for statehood remarks

10.09 a.m. ET (1519 GMT) November 12, 1999

By Laura King, Associated Press

WADI MOUSA, Jordan (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton criticized Palestinian officials today for pushing the statehood issue into the spotlight, saying her hosts had not acted properly during her brief visit to the West Bank a day earlier.

"I do not believe any kind of inflammatory rhetoric or baseless charges are good for the peace process," the first lady told reporters during a tour of the ancient Nabataean city of Petra.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed outrage after Suha Arafat, the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of using "poison gas" against Palestinians in comments she made in welcoming Mrs. Clinton to the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday.

In the speech, Mrs. Arafat pushed the statehood issue — and claimed there are increased rates of cancer among Palestinian women and children because of "intensive daily use of poison gas by the Israeli forces in the past years." Mrs. Arafat did not specify what gas she was referring to.

Israeli Cabinet Minister Haim Ramon, who often speaks in the name of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, said "Israel cannot ignore incitement of the type that could almost be called blood libel."

Ramon said the leaders should be preparing their peoples for peace, and that Mrs. Arafat was doing the opposite.

Housing Minister Yitzhak Levy demanded the government reconsider handing over West Bank territory to the Palestinians — calling the comments a violation of peace deals.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Ziad Abu-Zayyad today tried to soften Mrs. Arafat's prepared remarks, saying she had not meant Israelis were poisoning Palestinian intentionally.

He said she was mainly referring to the Israeli army's liberal use of tear gas in dispersing Palestinian stone throwers. Palestinian activists have in the past blamed errant tear gas canisters for miscarriages by women — but the cancer charges are new.

During her visit to Ramallah, Palestinian speakers constantly reminded Mrs.

~~Robert~~

Lars Nelson - NY Daily News

Don - Spokesman for

Sharon +

Jerus. Post

Sandy -
no?'s

Palest'n statement - blood
libel - David Barak -
N's close aide

Oral call to Reuters

[not in Reuters story]

Msgt:

PA official statement

Saeb Erekat:

"The
statement by Mrs. A
was ^{mis}interpreted, of course,
she did not mean
prison for her
gas^m. We agree at Pres C
that Israelis & Palestinians
should resolve their dispute.

John Riley

7/19/00 212 251 6903

HL made some remarks last Thursd^y ^{at L.I.} - abt Suha
before a Jewish audience

My lay-up is that she keeps making reference
to a bad translation -- when she got a
gd trans'n from State Dept she in Jordan
responded more vociferously

I've gone over w/ our reporter -- their notes of
what they heard the translator say, they
believe was same translator
- an Arab woman translator

- 1) The notes from Newsday's reporters quote some use of
"toxic gases used by Israeli forces caused cancer
any Pal. children."
- 2) Reuters wire story: our people have been
submitted to the intensive use of poisonous
gas
- 3) U.S. official translation (in Israel) -
it is imp't to talk abt the great damage
caused by uses of toxic gases

Marsha When event was over, we went to some
hosp - when we got to Wainig Wace - no one had seen
PM's office, by that time, had put out a
statement saying criticizing Suha for talking abt
"env. degradation" - called Howard - this is what
made a lot
of press
went to another hospital -

We were in difficult situation

We had no fig in unity - (writing)
Nuances

At the time -

→ 19/00

Rob Malley -

~~Pluto~~ PLO official said to Kenkers -
Statement

"We heard that Sab Arakat which he said
Mrs Arafat meant tear gas" - in Jordan?

Marsha You have to

A cabinet minister said she didn't mean poison gas -
tear gas -

We had no indication that this was inflammatory
or different from anything that had been
said previously - an ongoing issue between the Pal.
& Israelis - a ping pong back & forth

Environmental degradation

Cabinet minister from PLO & other officials
said she meant tear gas, not toxic gas

Bottom line is she answered in the news cycle.

Newspapers - As you can see, there was variation
Here She wanted to get

Confusion about diff. translations -

To: Mrs. Clinton

From: Marsha Berry

Re: VOA interview

Date: May 27, 1998

Tomorrow you are participating in the debut of VOA News Now which is the first live 24-hour all news English radio broadcast and the first major format change at VOA in the last twenty years. You will give brief remarks before the interview to highlight the successes of VOA. The interview will be live and last for four minutes. Susan Clark and Kent Klein will host the interview. Of course any topic is possible for discussion, though you can expect them to relate to foreign affairs. The one cautionary note would be on the Palestinian State issue. I have enclosed the statement we put out regarding your comments. I also am attaching a time line for the evening.

COPY

To: DAJONES @ WASHDC (Jones, Deby)
 Co: JAPPLETON @ WASHDC (Appleton, John)
 From: NSHia
 Subject: Transcript
 Date: 5/6/98 Time: 3:38PM

To: DAJONES@USIA.GOV
 Co: JAPPLETON@USIA.GOV
 From: NSHia <NSHia@aol.com>

attached

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WORLDNET "DIALOGUE"
 UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
 Television and Film Service of Washington, D.C.

GUEST: U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

TOPIC: Seeds of Peace: The Middle East Youth Summit

POST: Villars

HOST: John Wallach

DATE: May 6, 1998

TIME: 13:00 - 13:30 EDT

MR. WALLACH: Mrs. Clinton, thank you so much for joining us today, and welcome to the first ever Middle East Youth Summit.

You may remember some of these youngsters from 1993 when some of them were only 12 or 13 years old. They were standing on the White House Lawn as honored guests at the historic signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles. It's five years later. They were leading the leaders then, and today they are still leading the leaders. They have spent one week here in Switzerland working on final status issues -- on security, on sovereignty, on refugee problems, and of course on the emotional issues such as Jerusalem -- topics that their leaders have been afraid to even begin to discuss. And they have made progress. Tomorrow will be announced the Charter of Villars, a peace treaty between the Israelis and Palestinians. It will not cover every issue, but will address many of them with many new ideas.

It is now a great pleasure for me to introduce the president of Novartis (sp), the Swiss pharmaceutical company that has made all of this possible. Dr. Dan Basella (sp).

DR. BASELLA (sp): Thank you very much, John. It is my privilege to introduce this evening and welcome the first lady of the United States, Mrs. Clinton, and it's my real pleasure and honor to have you here this evening.

Mrs. Clinton, as we have had the few last days together here in Villars, I have been very, very impressed by the hard work which the delegate students from the different countries in the Middle East have put together, and the link between the individuals which has allowed them to take a stand on one side and find agreements on the other side. And we are very confident that it will be working out the real important document which they will be able to deliver to their leaders. And we very much hope that it will influence and shape the opinions of their leaders.

Mrs. Clinton, we all know your commitment to the children and to the young people around the world, and I think this is an extremely important endeavor here we are witnessing. And the reason that you are here and the fact that you are here is showing the importance of this event.

We are all looking very much forward to your comments now, and I thank you in advance for being here.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, thank you very much. And I am the one who is thankful to have this opportunity to be part of such an extraordinary gathering of young people at the first Middle East Youth Summit. I only wish I could be there in person to tell you how much I admire your effort to bring peace and understanding to your communities.

I want to thank everyone who has helped bring all of you together, but especially John Wallach, who has devoted himself to giving young people, the children of war, the opportunity to plant the seeds of peace. He is an inspiration to us all.

What you are doing at this summit is an extraordinary act of courage. As young people who have grown up surrounded by violence and hatred and in many situations, you have every reason to think that the problems you face in the Middle East are too great to overcome. Some of you have lost sisters or brothers, or parents or grandparents, to struggles that go back far before you were born. Yet you have not lost hope. In fact, you have found the courage to defy history and envision a new kind of future.

In your communities at home, and now here at this summit, you have shown the world that hatred is never a solution, that what we all share in common is far greater than what keeps us apart, that understanding each other's histories and cultures, respecting each other's differences, are the foundations for a just society.

By looking into each other's faces and eyes we can sometimes touch each other's hearts. Your message is particularly important now as the leaders of

Joe O'Connell
 WA Ext-Affairs
 619-2538

your nations are struggling to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Through your work with the Seeds of Peace you know how difficult it is to overcome hatred and misunderstanding.

I remember a young Egyptian girl saying a few years ago while she was attending a Seeds of Peace camp here in the United States -- she said the first step we have to make right now is not only to want peace for our own people, we have to really want it -- really desire it for the others. She went on to say that if you are an Israeli you have to want for all the Palestinians to feel happy and safe and comfortable. And if you are a Palestinian you have to want the same thing for the Israelis. This young woman and all of you have already learned the greatest lessons of all.

Yet tolerance and understanding and the ability to come together over the lines that divide us aren't just the tools of international diplomacy. They are the rules by which we try to live everyday in our families, our schools, our communities, because it is only when these values are honored and are part of our everyday lives that we will have the strength to turn our families, our schools, our communities and our nations towards justice and peace.

No country in the world is immune from war, or hatred, or violence. Unfortunately it is all around us in every corner of our globe.

But you are offering us a different vision of what the future can hold, a future where children can live free from violence and conflict, where every citizen can live in dignity, where every child is able to live up to his or her fullest potential.

My husband, the president of the United States, is working very hard for a just and lasting peace. You too are seeking the same goals. He joins me in thanking all of you for what you are doing to fulfill that vision of peace, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. I look forward to seeing the results of your consultations and reading your Agreement, just as now I look forward to talking with you about what you've learned over the past few days at this summit and about your plans for the future. But mostly I want you to know how proud I am to be in any way a part of what you are struggling to accomplish.

MR. WALLACH: Mrs. Clinton, we would now like to turn to the very first question, which is actually going to be from two of our delegations who decided to ask you the question together. From Israel Nora (sp), and from the Palestinian delegation Bushra (sp).

Q Mrs. Clinton, hello. My name is Nora (sp), and I am from Israel. My Palestinian friend Bushra (sp) and I are very, very good friends, and we both hope very much to become future leaders of our countries. I would like to ask you if in your opinion there is a high chance of achieving true peace if the Israeli leader and the Palestinian leader are both women. (Laughter.)

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think that we need to work to have more women leaders -- not only in Israel and Palestine, but around the world, so that young women like both of you, who are interested in politics and diplomacy and looking for ways to end violence and war, will be able to give your contribution back to your nations and help go build greater understanding.

I don't know that I can answer blanket in any way that if women were leaders of both of your societies that we would have a better chance for peace, but I do think that women bring their own concerns, their own hopes and aspirations that need to be heard, because very often it is the women who suffer when they lose their husbands or their fathers or their sons. It is the women who are the refugees who are often left to fend for themselves. So I would hope that women's voices would be heard more clearly in the Middle East, and that more women will have a chance to serve as leaders, because I believe their voices and their actions could contribute to a just and lasting peace.

Q (Off mike) -- from Palestine. Mrs. Clinton, to what extent would you expect the Palestinian women to take part in political leadership?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I believe that women are just as capable -- not more, nor less -- than men to be political leaders, if given the chance. And I believe that in societies where women are permitted to participate fully in the economic and political and social affairs of their nation the countries are stronger for that. So I would hope that women in the Palestine state, just as throughout the Middle East, would be given the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and make their contributions. Not every woman, nor indeed every man, is equipped for or interested in politics. But today we need our very best leaders, and we should not artificially eliminate from leadership one gender, women, but instead should try to find the best of our men and women to be the best possible leaders throughout the world, and in particular in the Middle East where we desperately need such good leadership.

Q (Off mike) -- and I am from Jordan. Most of the foreign aid that is presently being given by the United States to Jordan is in the form of military aid. Now that there is less of an external threat to the kingdom, do you think that the U.S. Congress would approve financial assistance for education in human rights to actually combat a potentially more dangerous internal threat?

MRS. CLINTON: I think that is an excellent question. I personally believe that the United States should be doing more to support democracy and support stronger economies and education and other needs of people throughout the world -- not only in the Middle East. But in particular in the Middle East I wish that we would direct more of our aid to doing just what you suggest. The more we can help educate people, the more we can provide health care, the more we can provide loans and credit for people to go into business to see the fruits of their labor, the better our relations will be and the stronger the countries will be.

So I don't know whether we would be successful in the short run convincing our United States Congress to do that, but I have personally spoken out on that very issue. I will continue to do so. And I think you raise a very important point, because clearly if people are educated, if they don't feel oppressed, if they are not impoverished, they are more likely to not be drawn in to violence and hatred, because they will have their own lives and futures to build, and I would like to support that.

Q Hi, my name is Dina (sp) from Egypt. Mrs. Clinton, here at Seeds of Peace we are all being told that we are the leaders of tomorrow. You are one of the most influential women in the world. Can you tell us how you got involved in politics, why, and give us some advice? Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I've always been interested in politics. And as a young woman like yourself I began to study politics. I followed current events. I went to lectures whenever there was something about international politics or domestic politics. I became active in political campaigns when I was quite young -- worked on behalf of candidates whom I supported and against candidates whom I did not support. And I became actively involved on behalf of my beliefs when I was in college and law school -- on behalf of civil rights in my country, against the Vietnam War that was waging when I was in school. And I tried in every way I could to educate myself about what was happening politically.

I do not personally believe that every person who is interested in politics must actually run for office. There are many ways for people to serve in politics -- in appointed positions, as citizen advocates. And those are the roles that I've taken on during the last 30 or so years. And certainly when my husband

became actively involved in politics I have worked very hard to support the causes that he has advocated, as well as his electoral campaigns. But I've always maintained my own separate interests in political life. I have served on a number of commissions and boards on my own behalf, on issues that I am concerned about, and have always felt that I had as much right as anyone else in my society to speak out for what I believed in. So I think that there are many opportunities to be actively involved in politics and to become a leader. Some may choose to actually run for and hold political office, but other citizens can also make a big contribution, because our voices deserve to be heard as well.

Q Mrs. Clinton, hello, my name is Yera (sp) and I am from Israel. We came to Seeds of Peace as (foreigners?), and now we are friends. I think in the military service we are afraid we are afraid to be commanded to hurt one another. How do you think we should deal with that, such an ethical problem, such an ethical dilemma, and what would you propose us to do in such a case? Thank you very much.

MRS. CLINTON: You know, that's a very interesting issue, because certainly if people get to know one another as human beings, spend time with each other, as you all have done, then you see each other as people, not as stereotypes, not as caricatures that are drawn in cartoons or are described to you. And that makes war harder, and that's good.

Now, those of you who face military service I think have a real dilemma, because certainly if any of your countries are directly at risk, if there is any kind of an attack or any kind of violence directed at your people, then you have to defend yourself. There is no doubt about that. But even when you are in military service I think it is very important always to ask yourselves, is what I am being asked to do honorable and right and ethical?, because sometimes in the absence of an actual fighting war the best people to say no are people in the military, people who say, That is not a good thing for us to do -- we should not engage in that kind of behavior.

So I think that it's quite important to have ethical people with consciences in military uniform. So I don't think that that is in itself a contradiction, but it is important always to be very careful about what you are asked and ordered to do, and to raise questions where you possibly can, even when you are wearing uniform.

But I think the more people in the military see each other across the lines that divide us as human beings the better that will be. And that will be another way of moving closer towards some kind of peace.

I remember very well when the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was signed. One of the most moving moments in that ceremony in the desert was to see the military officers from Israel and Jordan coming forward to shake hands, pledging to cooperate together against common threats, like terrorism or drug smuggling, the things that affect all nations. So it was very moving and very important that the military leaders of both Jordan and Israel were there to pledge themselves to peace. And so I think there is an important role for the military to play.

Q I am -- (inaudible) -- from Jordan. Mrs. Clinton, next year I am going to college in the U.S., and I just can imagine that those questions about my country, such as, Do you have camels in the streets?, or Do you live in tents?, and everything. And I was wondering do American students receive sufficient education about that area of the world, I mean the Middle East? And, Mrs. Clinton, you have been to the Middle East -- what things do you find necessary for Americans to know about that area? Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I congratulate you on pursuing your education, and I am pleased that you are going to be in the United States. But I think you are right to worry about what people here in America will know about your country, because unfortunately many Americans do not know very much about the rest of the world. And in part that's because our news coverage in America does not carry very much news about foreign affairs or what happens in other parts of the world. Unless there is a war or a natural disaster, or some other extraordinary event, many Americans don't have an opportunity to learn very much about what goes on outside of America. So while it may be a bit tiresome, the questions you will be asked will be asked out of curiosity -- not out of any kind of disrespect, because many Americans will not have studied anything about the Middle East, and they won't have very much information except just a superficial understanding about Jordan or any of the other countries in the Middle East.

So I hope that you will be able by your own answering of questions help educate some of your fellow students, because I always want Americans to know more about what's going on around the world. And particularly when I visit the Middle East or any part of the world, I always come back and I talk about my trips, I often do slide shows to show pictures of where I've been. I talk about the people I have met, because I think it is very important that more Americans know about the cultural traditions, the religious traditions, the great history of the Middle East. But we have a ways to go before we're going to break through the consciousness of many Americans, because they just don't get much information unfortunately. So I hope you'll be able to open some eyes and ears while you are here in the United States.

MR. WALLACH: There are six more who want to try to ask a question, so I am going to try to move it as quickly as I can. Mona?

Q Hi. My name is Mona. I am from Palestine. Mrs. Clinton, I would like to ask you about the whole generation of the Intifada. Those people who spend their lives out of the schools throwing stones, and now they don't have anything to do and no education. So in your opinion, what do you think can be done for those victims so that they can conduct their lives without suffering? Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: I think that there has to be a lot of effort made to provide education and training for those young people who were in the streets. This is a problem in other countries as well. You may know that during the apartheid era in South Africa many black South Africans would not go to the schools because they were not permitted to learn in their own languages and they would not believe what was taught in the classes. And so they were on the streets. They were out of school. They are now unemployed. And I know that you have the same problem in Palestine with many young people, particularly young men. I believe there should be an international effort to establish schools and training programs for these young men.

You know, Palestinians are known throughout the world for your industry, your ingenuity, your hard work. Wherever Palestinians settle -- for example in my own country -- they become very successful because of their ability to really make a good living for themselves. I would like to see international resources go to setting up such programs and providing seed money, small loans so that many of the people in Palestine could get their own businesses started, to create a market so that there could be more economic activity.

So I think it should be of the highest priority, and it's something that again I have spoken out because you cannot leave a whole generation of young people feeling that they are without hope and not having the education or skills to make a better life for themselves. That is not good for them, and it is not good for your country and it is not good for peace, because when people are restless and anxious and without particular hope for their own future they are easy prey for extremists and terrorists, so that they are involved in tearing things down instead of building things up.

So I would very much like to see the international community help you solve this particular problem, and I am going to continue to speak out about that.

MR. WALLACH: Tariq (sp)?

Q I'm Tariq (sp) from Egypt. Mrs. Clinton, you have been a supporter of the Seeds of Peace since 1993, and with that, thanks to you, that we attended the signing of the Declaration of Principles. And I was wondering how you personally felt towards this conference and what effects could the conference have and the agreement that we hope to reach on the entire peace process, and specifically the negotiations scheduled to take place in Washington on Monday, if any of course. Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I am very enthusiastic about the Seeds of Peace, because I think that an effort like this in which you are involved bringing people together, particularly young people who are not caught up in the existing political maneuvering that goes on in every country, are able to see things more clearly, and I might even add perhaps more honestly than older leaders feel they can. So you are able to say things and agree to things that set benchmarks for leaders to have to measure up to. I am looking forward to seeing your agreement. I will immediately when I get a copy of it give it to my president, give it to Secretary Albright, so that they can see what all of you have agreed to. And I think it could be a useful document, even in the existing negotiation. So I am very hopeful that your work here will live on and have real consequences, because you have been willing to do the hard work of really trying to reach agreement.

Q Mrs. Clinton, hi, my name is -- (inaudible) -- and I am from Israel. Firstly, I would like to know how do you do?

MRS. CLINTON: I am doing fine, I am delighted to meet you.

Q As an Israeli I would like to know what do you think will be the consequences to the fact that you declared -- (inaudible) -- Palestine, considering the fact that there is no state called Palestine right now.

MRS. CLINTON: I'm sorry, I did not understand your question.

Q That is why I am going to repeat it. I would like to know very sincerely what do you think will be the consequences for your declaration a few minutes ago of Palestine, considering to the fact that right now this country does not exist. Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I think that it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state and for it to be a state that is responsible for its citizens well-being, a state that has responsibility for providing education and health care and economic opportunity to its citizens, a state that has to accept the responsibility of governing. I think that is very important for the Palestinian people. But I also think it's very important for the broader goal of peace in the Middle East. So I think that the territory that the Palestinians currently inhabit, and whatever additional territory they will obtain through the peace negotiations, should be considered and evolve into a functioning modern state that is responsible for the well-being of its people and is seen on the same footing as any other state in terms of dealing responsibly with all of the issues that state governments must deal with.

Q My name is -- (inaudible) -- I am from Palestine. And, Mrs. Clinton, many of my people have suffered and are victims of the conflict that we have, the Arab-Israeli conflict we are having back home. So what is, in your opinion, the way that we can help them believe or accept peace? Thank you.

MRS. CLINTON: You know, that is always the hardest issue, is how do you take people who have suffered, who perhaps have lost members of their families, lost property, feel that they lost even their opportunity for an education, and create conditions where they believe that peace will help them. This is a problem all over the world. We see it in Bosnia, we see it in South Africa, we see it in the upcoming peace referendum in Northern Ireland. There are always people who for whatever reason are going to agitate for war, are not going to accept peace.

But I don't think there can be any doubt that peace is better for the great majority of people living anywhere in the world. And we just have to do a better job of persuading everyone that peace will enable them to have a better life. And we have to keep talking about it and doing all we can to create the conditions for peace.

Some will not believe, but I think the majority of people will want to give peace the chance if they are given the opportunity to do so.

MR. WALLACH: On behalf of Novartis (sp), and on behalf particularly of Seeds of Peace, thank you so much for giving so generously of your time to the Middle East peace summit.

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you very much, John. (Applause. Cheers.)

END

ETJ

Deborah B. Mohile
02/23/99 12:31:49 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: 2/22 Bloomfield Col/Hillary and Jews

This is the first article that I have seen. This guy regularly sends me his columns before they are printed (under the assumption that I won't leak them to other press sources)- they appear in a number of Jewish weeklies around the country and won't be printed until Thursday or Friday (depending upon the paper). It was a story that was actually written before yesterday's event.

----- Forwarded by Deborah B. Mohile/WHO/EOP on 02/23/99 12:30 PM -----



dmb @ his.com
02/23/99 12:08:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Deborah B. Mohile

cc:

Subject: 2/22 Bloomfield Col/Hillary and Jews

Washington Watch

Hillary could spotlight Jewish schisms

By Douglas M. Bloomfield

It's not exactly part of her campaign strategy, but if Hillary Rodham Clinton runs for the Senate in New York next year, the campaign could provide a significant sounding board for the issues that divide the Jewish community -- Israel and the peace process, public vs. private schools and church-state separation.

Historically, candidates in New York -- which has the largest number of Jewish voters outside of Israel -- have tried to finesse divisions among the Jews, trying to be all things to all people.

It's not unusual to see American politicians trying to appear more hawkish on Israeli security than Israeli leaders, but this time there is a potential candidate of immense popularity who does not toe the hawkish line.

Mrs. Clinton is again coming under savage attack from right wing Jews for comments she made last May about Palestinian statehood, and Republican politicians are enthusiastically joining the fray.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a potential GOP senatorial candidate, has accused her of "siding with the Palestinians against the Israelis." Much the same was said by Sen. Mitch McConnell (KY), the chairman of the GOP Senate Campaign Committee, who sees the First Lady as a boon to his efforts to raise Jewish money for Republican candidates next year.

The head of a pro-Israel political action committee (PAC) in New York which gives to both parties said, "The screamers in our community will make a lot of noise, but 85% of the Jews will be fine with Hillary."

Prof. Amos Permuter of American University said, "Since the Jewish leaders are still in a ghetto in New York and a bunch of cowards, they're going to vote for her even though she's called for a Palestinian state."

Mrs. Clinton insists, publicly and privately, that her position is the same as the administration's, that it is up to the parties themselves to negotiate the issue of Palestinian statehood. She also has said that the late Yitzhak Rabin lamented to her and her husband about the difficulties of negotiating with the Palestinians because, unlike the Syrians and Jordanians, there is no entity to deal with and hold accountable, and Mrs. Clinton feels she was reflecting that view.

What she did say, in a May 8, 1998, satellite interview with Israeli and Palestinian youths was, "I think that it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state, and for it to be a state that is responsible for its citizens' well-being...a state that has to accept the responsibility of governing."

Administration officials have repeatedly said she was expressing her personal views and then denied she was staking out any new policy ground. Many Israelis and Palestinians, for their own reasons, were convinced that she was revealing the secret inner thinking of her husband and his government.

Even the broadest interpretation of what she said does not constitute an endorsement of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood; she has repeatedly insisted it is something to be mutually agreed upon.

Nonetheless, her critics feared her comments would encourage Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to carry out his oft-repeated threat to unilaterally announce establishment of a state on May 4, the original deadline for concluding negotiations on final status issues under the Oslo Accords.

However, the Clinton Administration, with the support of moderate Arab states and the Europeans, has apparently convinced Arafat to drop that threat because it could interfere with the Israeli elections 13 days later and do serious damage to the peace process. But the issue is bound to come up after a new Israeli government is in place, which should be by the middle of June.

If Mrs. Clinton decides to run for the seat being vacated by Sen.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan -- and it is far from certain that she will -- the statehood issue will be one of the most contentious, with risks for both sides.

While the opponents are very vocal and well organized, the truth is they are a minority. Most American Jews, like most Israelis, accept Palestinian statehood in some form as inevitable, and sooner rather than later. That is something the hawks here and in Israel would like to stifle, but even Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and some of his Cabinet ministers have spoken of accepting a state with limited sovereignty.

That issue, however, could be moot well before the November 2000 election because it is very possible that the Palestinian state will be established by then.

But even without that, there will be other issues that divide Jewish voters, and her candidacy could ignite lively debate on those as well.

Divisions within the Jewish community are more pronounced in New York than elsewhere -- by sheer weight of numbers and because of the size and influence of the Orthodox population -- and the impact of the Jewish vote is immense.

There is strong support in some circles, particularly among the Orthodox, for vouchers and other forms of taxpayer support for private schools. Other issues which divide Jewish liberals and conservatives are charitable choice, which permits religious institutions to use federal funds for health and social services with fewer governmental restrictions, abortion rights and homosexual rights.

"The right wing Jews may go after her" on these issues, said a friend of the First Lady, but "the rest of the Jews love her" and she'd have no trouble winning not only the Jewish vote but the election.

All the polls say the same thing, but her candidacy is still a novelty. While Mrs. Clinton is an experienced politician and a highly skilled, veteran campaigner -- which was evident in last year's New York Senate race, where she is credited with having played an invaluable role in Chuck Schumer's stunning victory over Alfonse D'Amato (who says he might run next year if she does) -- she would face a very different political challenge running on her own in the overheated environment of New York politics.

"She's tough, especially after what she's just been through, and I'd be surprised there's much they could do that would upset her," said her friend.

But there are some very compelling reasons that suggest to this observer that she will not run for the Moynihan seat next year.

As a popular former First Lady she will not need the Senate for a platform to express her views. She will be free to do that on the world stage with fewer inhibitions, and free to devote time to the causes she

cares most about while earning some of the big bucks she and her husband need to pay off legal bills accumulated from a plethora of GOP-led investigations.

Mrs. Clinton is at the peak of her popularity and, after her husband, she is the Democratic Party's most popular draw and effective fundraiser. Party leaders fear running for the Senate will take her away from the more urgent task of criss-crossing the country over the next 20 months raising money and campaigning for the presidential ticket and scores if not hundreds of candidates at all levels.

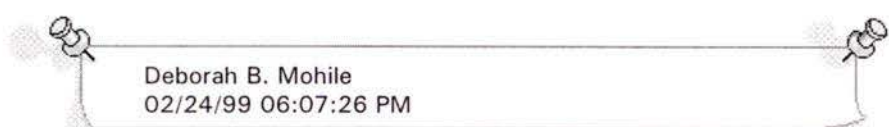
"Not having her out on the campaign trail, especially for Al Gore, would be a huge loss, a huge loss," said a White House official.

Besides, if she still has the Senate bug after that, there's always 2004, when freshman GOP Sen. Peter Fitzgerald comes up for reelection in her native Illinois.

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Deborah B. Mohile
02/24/99 06:07:26 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: story

OK, first there was this on May 12...

Hillary Rodham Clinton steps
into Mideast diplomatic
quagmire
By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- When Hillary Rodham Clinton called for Palestinian statehood in a satellite hookup with a Middle East youth summit last week, she entered a debate that had begun days earlier.

Long before the first lady set off diplomatic fireworks, the 75 teen-age delegates in Switzerland had grappled with the explosive issue.

Incensed that their conference T-shirts listed their country of origin as ``PNA" for Palestinian National Authority when the other delegates got shirts that read Israel, Jordan, Egypt or the United States, the Palestinian representatives covered PNA with tape and wrote ``Palestine."

In a negotiated settlement, all the delegates covered their country's name with their name tags, leaving only a flag showing.

Then the first lady came on satellite television to talk to the delegates.

As the Palestinian children asking questions gave their names and ``Palestine" as their country of origin, WorldNet beamed back a caption with their name and ``Palestine" for Clinton to see.

In response to a question, the first lady said, ``I think it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state."

The comment, including at least seven other

references to statehood for the Palestinians and the word ``Palestine" set off a fury in Israel and among many American Jewish groups.

The first lady's staff immediately moved to downplay the statement.

Her words stand in direct contradiction to U.S. policy, which for decades opposed the creation of a Palestinian state.

After Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo accords earlier this decade did the United States say that statehood is a matter for negotiations between the parties.

The day after the first lady's comments, White House spokesman Mike McCurry continued to distance the Clinton administration from the statement.

``That view expressed personally by the first lady is not the view of the president," said McCurry.

``This was not part of any kind of calculated strategy, and I think it speaks for itself when an immediate clarification is issued by her staff that this is something that she did not say in the context of any formal administration policy-making role," he said.

When pressed on the issue, McCurry said to laughter from the White House press corps, ``I expect that she will always continue to express her views, but I doubt that she'll be venturing into the Middle East peace process anytime soon."

But Netanyahu and many Jewish groups say that Clinton himself needs to address the comment, which is being interpreted in many European and Arab capitals as a signal to the Palestinians.

As Netanyahu continues to seek Clinton's promise that he would not recognize a threatened unilateral declaration by Arafat of Palestinian statehood if the final status talks do not conclude by their May 1999 deadline, the first lady's statement hit Israel hard.

A letter from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to Clinton accepted the administration's disavowal of the first lady's statement. But in a separate statement, the umbrella group said the president ``must make clear to Chairman Arafat that any unilateral declaration of a

Palestinian state in violation of the Oslo accords would be rejected by the U.S. and not recognized."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright addressed the issue at a news conference Tuesday.

Without mentioning the first lady by name, Albright said any unilateral statements on issues reserved for the final-status peace talks, including the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are ``courting disaster.''

Then this appeared the next day:

NOTE TO EDITORS: The

following is a revised version of the flap over Hillary Clinton's remarks. It gives a slightly more analytical spin to the story.

First lady's 'Palestine' words:

An intended shift in U.S. policy?

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA) -- Did Hillary Rodham Clinton send a message of support for a Palestinian state on purpose?

Speaking during a satellite hookup with teen-agers in Switzerland last week, she said ``Palestine" or ``state" at least seven times.

The White House contends she did not mean to signal a shift in U.S. policy when, in response to a question, the first lady said, ``I think it will be in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state."

But many Israeli officials and Jewish groups remain unconvinced. The statement has set off a fury in Israel and among many American Jews who saw the comment as another way to pressure Israel to make concessions in the peace talks.

Intentional or not, Hillary Clinton's statement represents a major shift in U.S. policy, which for decades opposed the creation of a Palestinian state. Only after Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo accords earlier this decade did the United States say that statehood is a matter for negotiations between

the parties.

The question is whether that shift was intended.

The White House said she was not speaking for the United States.

But New York Times columnist William Safire expressed the opinion of many in the Jewish community when he wrote Monday that the White House denial of the first lady's statements ``was not merely implausible; it was laughable."

Especially troubling, many Jewish and Israeli officials said, is the first lady's own reputation as a thoughtful and deliberate person. In the fallout from the statement, the organized Jewish community has asked President Clinton to respond personally.

For their part, Palestinians and Arab leaders adopted it as a clear American signal.

``We are very grateful to the first lady regarding the Palestinian state," Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Brussels this week. ``This is a very important and clear signal."

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to seek President Clinton's promise that he would not recognize a threatened unilateral declaration by Arafat of Palestinian statehood if the final-status talks do not conclude by their May 1999 deadline, the first lady's statement hit Israel hard.

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``This was not part of any kind of calculated strategy, and I think it speaks for itself when an immediate clarification is issued by her staff that this is something that she did not say in the context of any formal administration policy-making role," he said.

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For Israel and some Jewish groups, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's comments on the issue at this week's news conference did not go far enough.

Without mentioning the first lady by name, Albright said that any unilateral statements on issues reserved for the final-status peace talks, including the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are ``courting disaster."

The organizers of the Seeds for Peace conference, at which Hillary Clinton spoke, never thought the first lady would cause an international diplomatic brouhaha.

Long before the first lady's remarks, the 75 teens at the conference in Switzerland had grappled with the explosive issue of statehood.

Incensed that their conference T-shirts listed their country of origin as ``PNA" for Palestinian National Authority when the other delegates got shirts that read Israel, Jordan, Egypt or the United States, the Palestinian representatives covered PNA with tape and wrote ``Palestine."

In a negotiated settlement, all the delegates covered their country's name with their name tags, leaving only a flag showing, according to source involved in the program.

Then the first lady came on satellite television to talk to the delegates.

As the Palestinian children asking questions gave their names and ``Palestine" as their country of origin, WorldNet beamed back a caption with their name and ``Palestine" for Clinton to see.

It was in response to a question that the first lady came out with her controversial remarks.

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7TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Daily News (New York)

February 25, 1999, Thursday

SECTION: News; Pg. 26

LENGTH: 447 words

HEADLINE: MOVERS, SHAKERS GIVE ADVICE TO HIL

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET Daily News Washington Bureau With Thomas M. DeFrank, Timothy J. Burger, Richard Sisk and Joel Siegel

BODY:

WASHINGTON Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday hosted another gaggle of politicians, advisers and labor officials at the White House to pick their brains about what it would take to run for a New York Senate seat.

The steady stream included Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), Rep. Nita Lowey (D-Westchester), AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Harold Ickes, a former aide to President Clinton who is the First Lady's key adviser on the potential race.

The First Lady indicated "this is all happening too quickly for her," and said she "needs time, so we're going to slow it down for her," one participant told the Daily News.

Schumer and Torricelli promised to talk to party activists and urge them to give Clinton time to decide.

"This is the most important professional decision she will make, and it would be unfair to her, to New York and to the country for her to make a rush decision in a frenzied atmosphere," Schumer said.

But Torricelli, who has all but sent a moving van to the White House, vowed to work "as hard as possible" as chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee to recruit the First Lady to run.

Lowey, who has said she will not run for the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Daniel Moynihan if Hillary Clinton seeks it, added, "We agreed that the top priority is keeping Sen. Moynihan's seat Democratic."

Earlier this week, the First Lady met with other New Yorkers, including Andrew Cuomo and Moynihan's wife, Elizabeth. She also spoke with political organizers in New York and top party operatives in Washington, aides said.

Mayor Giuliani her would-be GOP opponent in a dream race tackled the subject while in Washington yesterday.

"She excites a lot of interest, a lot of emotion," which would bring money pouring into her campaign coffers, Giuliani said, but her lightning-rod status "also makes it a lot easier to raise money" for Republicans, too.

Daily News (New York) February 25, 1999, Thursday

One lightning-rod issue has been her past support for a Palestinian state.

N.Y. Jewish Week is reporting in today's edition that she appeared to back away from her controversial stance in meeting with 25 rabbis at the White House on Tuesday.

She reportedly told the group that the issue should be left to Israel and the Palestinians to decide. Her spokeswoman Marsha Berry told the paper that her "personal position" favoring a Palestinian state remained unchanged.

But several rabbis said they thought she had reshaped her position.

"She spoke . . . in terms agreeable to the ears that wanted to hear that that she meant the parties will ultimately decide," said Orthodox Rabbi Albert Gabbai of Philadelphia.

LOAD-DATE: February 25, 1999

Hillary Courting Jewish Vote as Protesters Plan to Burn Hadassah Cards

By SETH GITELL

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton is intensifying her push to court New York's Jewish voters for her effort to replace Senator Moynihan, who is retiring. She met for two hours with an Orthodox leader who is an aide to Mr. Moynihan, and she is naming a key Jewish aide to the staff of her exploratory committee.

In a meeting brokered by Mr. Moynihan's wife, Elizabeth, Mrs. Clinton met last week for two hours

with a senior adviser to Mr. Moynihan, David Luchins. Following the meeting at the Moynihans' Washington apartment, Mrs. Clinton's exploratory committee appointed the chief of staff of Rep. Nita Lowey, Howard Wolfson, to serve as its spokesman; Mr. Wolfson handled the press for Senator Schumer's successful 1998 Senate run.

Mrs. Clinton also dropped by, unannounced, during a visit this week to the White House by the Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox group.

Mrs. Clinton is trying to overcome anger in the Jewish community over her 1998 statement in support of a Palestinian state. That statement, which was protested at the time even by centrist groups such as the American Jewish Committee, lacked the usual caveats about



DAVID SCULL
CLINTON:
Woos Jews.

slightly adjusted her statements on Palestinian statehood, some Jews still hold it against her. This week, for instance, a group called Americans for a Safe Israel was planning a public burning of Hadassah membership cards in protest of the women's organization's decision to

demilitarization, and it also differed with the official American government position that statehood is a matter for negotiation between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. While Mrs. Clinton has since

honor Mrs. Clinton with its Henrietta Szold award.

Mrs. Clinton also alienated some Jewish leaders by her recent appearance at the White House with the Rev. Al Sharpton and by her hosting at the White House of American Muslim and Arab groups that have been critical of America's support for Israel. Still, some political analysts say Mrs. Clinton can ride her record on women's and children's issues and education to a strong showing among a group of voters that has overwhelmingly supported her husband in the last two presidential elections. Moreover, the recent election of Ehud Barak in Israel may narrow the gaps between Mrs. Clinton's positions on Middle East matters and those of the Israeli government. That could help push Mrs. Clinton, a Democrat, Please turn to Page 14

Continued from Page 1

past her likely Republican opponent, Mayor Giuliani, who has won strong support from New York Jewish voters in two citywide races.

"The purpose of the meeting was to educate Mrs. Clinton as to the aspirations, concerns and needs of a significant segment of the Jewish community," said Mr. Luchins, the Moynihan aide who is also an officer in the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and in the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. "It's a long time, a year and a half. In a year and a half, Hillary Clinton is going to learn everything about New York. We discussed specific things she can and should do. You're going to see a concerted effort to reach out."

While declining to make a formal endorsement, Mr. Luchins said, "I will do whatever I legally can to help her learn about the needs and interests of the people of New York. I think she has the potential of being a superstar in the U.S. Senate."

"She is seriously considering running," Mr. Wolfson told the Forward. "She is taking a lot of time meeting New Yorkers all over the state," said Mr. Wolfson, who joined Mrs. Clinton's staff last Saturday. He said she would start a tour of New York, beginning at Mr. Moynihan's country home, this month.

Mr. Luchins, in an interview with the Forward, declined to discuss the substance of his conversation with the first lady. He did say, however, "She was forceful and clear on the Jerusalem issue. That's not going to be an issue. She's going to be a worthy successor in every way to Pat Moynihan. If she chooses to run for the Senate, she will do as well in the Jewish community — and better in the Orthodox community — than Chuck Schumer."

Mr. Luchins said he is not joining Mrs. Clinton's staff. "I am not working for the first lady. I work for Senator Moynihan, and we are working with the first lady to help her understand and appreciate the citizens of New York state and their interests," Mr. Luchins said.

In addition to bringing extensive experience with the general press, Mr. Wolfson is deeply knowledgeable about the Jewish community and issues relating to Israel. Ms. Lowey, his former employer, is a member of the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee that handles aid to Israel. Having left Ms. Lowey's staff to help elect Mr. Schumer, Mr. Wolfson also played a part in the most significant Democratic victory in the Empire State of the 1990s — the defeat of Senator D'Amato. Taken together, Mrs. Clinton's gestures represent overtures to different fiefdoms in the balkanized New York Democratic community.

Mrs. Clinton spoke to the Agudath Israel of America delegation about the administration's effort to free the 13 Jews imprisoned in Iran on trumped-up charges of espionage. She also spoke of the administration's commitment to family and children's issues, said the Aguda's executive vice president for government and public affairs, David Zwiebel.

"She's clearly making an effort to learn the political ecology of the Jewish community in New York, which is different than in other states," said the director of the Taub Urban Research Center at New York University, Mitchell Moss. "The Jewish community in New York is a complex network of communities, many of whom don't communicate with each other. There is no one Jewish voting block."

The chairman of the Young Jewish Leadership Pac, a Republican group, David Javdan, said Mrs. Clinton's effort to win Jews over would likely meet with some success. "We saw with Al D'Amato that a large portion of the Jewish community favors Democrats," Mr. Javdan said. "I think it's a horrendous mistake. The Jewish community is being short-sighted in supporting people who don't support it."

The director of Mr. Giuliani's

exploratory committee, Bruce Teitelbaum, said the Moynihan news came as no surprise to him. "We're confident that the mayor's strong record on issues of importance to the Jewish community will mean that he will continue to receive strong support from the Jewish community. The mayor's positions on seminal issues to the Jewish community like the status of Jerusalem and the location of the American Embassy are unequivocal," Mr. Teitelbaum said.

A Democratic political consultant, Hank Sheinkopf, said he did not think the first lady's moves would be enough. "Having Jews in front doesn't matter anymore. People have seen nine years of 'Seinfeld.' Jews up front is an expected given in New York," Mr. Sheinkopf said. "It's where you stand in Jerusalem; it's where you stand in vouchers, where you stand on the appointment of Zogby, where you stand on a Palestinian state and where you stand on al-Marayati," Mr. Sheinkopf said, referring to several questions about Mrs. Clinton's connection to Clinton administration positions that have not been perceived as friendly to the Jewish community.

President Clinton invoked a national security waiver to avoid implementing a law that would have otherwise required him to move America's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv by May 31. Joseph Zogby is a former aide to the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Martin Indyk. Mr. Zogby published articles criticizing Israel and the Oslo agreement. Salam al-Marayati is a director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council-Los Angeles who was appointed to the National Commission on Terrorism.

The executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel, Helen Freedman, is circulating an opinion piece criticizing Hadassah for planning to give Mrs. Clinton its Henrietta Szold Award. Ms. Freedman wrote: "Hadassah's decision to give the 1999 Henrietta Szold award...to Hillary Clinton...is offensive to all lovers of Zion. It is the antithesis of Zionism." Ms. Freedman, a member of Hadassah, also charged that the group "is violating its own restrictions about prohibiting the extension of any award or honor to a candidate for elective office." Americans for a Safe Israel is planning a July 14 demonstration at Hadassah headquarters.

Ms. Freedman provided the Forward with a Hadassah memo dated June 3, 1999, "re: Talking Points on Hillary Rodham Clinton's Choice As Our 1999 Henrietta Szold Award Recipient." One talking point states: "Hadassah supports the democratically elected government of Israel. The government considers the Palestinians to be its peace partners and has gone on record in support of negotiating towards a final status of a Palestinian entity." Another talking point makes the claim that "Henrietta Szold...was in favor of a bi-national state shared by Jews and Palestinians."

Ms. Freedman pointed out that Szold died prior to the establishment of Israel.

Asked about the flap, a spokesman for Hadassah, Roberta Elliott, provided the Forward with a statement in the name of the group's national president, Marlene Post. "We are 300,000 women who constitute the largest women's organization in the country and come from a variety of political opinions and backgrounds," Ms. Post said. "There is a minority of our members, and some are part of an outside orchestrated campaign, who have expressed great dissatisfaction in Mrs. Clinton's selection. This is to be expected in any large and diverse membership organization."

On the question of Hadassah's status, Ms. Elliott provided the Forward with a statement of opinion penned by a tax attorney, D. Benson Tesdahl. "Inviting Ms. Clinton to receive the Henrietta Szold Award and speak to the Hadassah audience is not a violation of Internal Revenue Code," Mr. Tesdahl's statement says. "There is nothing about this particular humanitarian award ceremony that shows an intent by Hadassah to intervene in a political campaign. Indeed, Hadassah has gone out of its way to avoid any appearance of impropriety."



Record Type: Record

To: Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP@EOP, Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: What is this???

----- Forwarded by Deborah B. Mohile/WHO/EOP on 07/08/99 01:29 PM -----



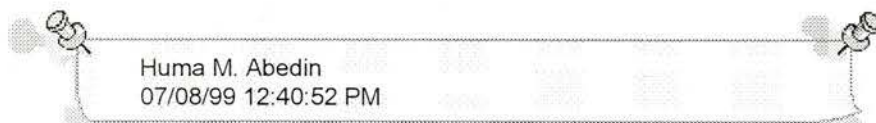
Record Type: Record

To: Deborah B. Mohile/WHO/EOP

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Subject: What is this???

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Record Type: Record

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Khaled Elgindy <kelgindy@arab-aai.org>
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Record Type: Record

To: Huma M. Abedin/WHO/EOP

cc:
Subject: Is this for real???

Received: by mail.arab-aai.org id <01BEC955.1E503A50@mail.arab-aai.org>; Thu, 8 Jul 1999 11:18:23 -0400

Date: Thu, 8 Jul 1999 11:18:22 -0400

From: Andy Barwig <abarwig@arab-aai.org>

Subject: Unbelievable!

To: Andy Barwig <abarwig@arab-aai.org>, James Zogby <jzogby@arab-aai.org>, Jennifer Salan <jsalan@arab-aai.org>, Khaled Elgindy <kelgindy@arab-aai.org>, Maya Berry <mberry@arab-aai.org>, Claudette Shwiry <cshwiry@arab-aai.org>

Message-id: <2F1B6E34F613D111A3A600A0C96049B81E9200@mail.arab-aai.org>

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Content-type: text/plain; CHARSET=US-ASCII

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

X-Priority: 3

X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000

Hillary Breaks With Bill Over Issue of Jerusalem, Vowing Fight for Capital

First Lady Sends Letter to Ganchrow Calling City 'Eternal and Indivisible'

By SETH GITELL

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON - In a substantive break with the policies of her husband the president, Hillary Rodham Clinton is calling Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel."

The first lady's statement came in a letter to the president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Dr. Mandell Ganchrow. The letter, a copy of which was obtained by the Forward, was a reply to a June 8 inquiry from Dr. Ganchrow asking whether she considered "Jerusalem to be the indivisible eternal capital of Israel."

Mrs. Clinton's position on Jerusalem is drawing attention as she prepares for a four-day swing through upstate New York beginning at the Oneonta farm of Senator Moynihan. One of the questions attending Mrs. Clinton's candidacy for the Senate seat to be vacated when Mr. Moynihan's term expires at the start of 2001 is the extent to which the first lady will be able to separate herself from her husband's policies. She began to do that last week, when she appeared to side with Senator

Schumer and a New York labor union against President Clinton's proposals on Medicare, which would reduce federal subsidies for New York teaching hospitals. Her comments on Jerusalem signal a willingness to differ with her husband's policies on a second issue that is of importance to an important New York constituency, Jewish voters.

"I personally consider Jerusalem the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel," Mrs. Clinton wrote Dr. Ganchrow. "If I am chosen by New Yorkers to be their Senator, or in whatever position I find myself in the years to come, you can be sure that I will be an active, committed advocate for a strong and secure Israel, able to live in peace with its neighbors, with the United States Embassy located in its capital, Jerusalem."

Mr. Clinton has been wildly popular with New York voters and with Jewish voters, carrying the Empire State in the 1992 Democratic primary as well as in the 1992 and 1996 general elections with wide margins among Jewish voters. So Mrs. Clinton, like Vice President Gore, who finds himself in a similar situation, does not need to distance herself too much. Still, Mrs. Clinton's comments last year favoring Palestinian statehood without the usual caveats about demilitarization and negotiation with the Israelis unnerved some centrist Jewish organizations. (The first lady has since modified her stance on the statehood issue, saying it is a matter for negotiation between the parties.) Leaders of some of those same Jewish organizations are now expressing appreciation for Mrs. Clinton's stance on Jerusalem.

Mrs. Clinton wrote that the timing of any move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem "must be sensitive to Israel's interest in achieving a secure peace with its neighbors. I will never countenance any action that would endanger Israel's security." She concluded: "I would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Orthodox Union."

Mrs. Clinton's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital presents a striking contrast to the views of Mr. Clinton's State Department and National Security Council. Mr. Clinton recently exercised a national security waiver contained in a law that would otherwise have required him to move the embassy to Jerusalem. Asked if Mr. Clinton believed that Jerusalem was Israel's "eternal and indivisible capital," a spokesman for the National Security Council, Colonel P.J. Crowley, said, "We recognize Tel Aviv as the capital. As for Jerusalem, it is our view that issues regarding Jerusalem need to be resolved as part of final status issues" in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. Colonel Crowley added, "The president's view was reflected in his recent decision on the Jerusalem Embassy Act."

As for the State Department, it has long recorded the birthplace on the passports of Americans born in Jerusalem - even western Jerusalem, which has been part of Israel since the state was founded in 1948 - as simply "Jerusalem," rather than, "Jerusalem, Israel." The State Department's deputy special Middle East coordinator, Aaron Miller, was asked recently at an audience before an American Jewish group to name the city in Israel that is Israel's capital. Mr. Miller would say only that Israel

claimed its capital in Jerusalem. The controversy stems partially from a 1947 U.N. General Assembly resolution, 181, which envisioned Jerusalem as a corpus separatum, an international city outside of Israeli control. The resolution was never implemented, but Arab diplomats have lately been trying to revive it as a basis for final status talks with Israel.

In an interview, Dr. Ganchrow said, "There is a lot of significance to this letter. It is the first time she has used the words 'eternal and indivisible.'"

Dr. Ganchrow provided the Forward with a copy of his response to Mrs. Clinton's missive. "We are very pleased that you pledge your active committed advocacy for a strong and secure Israel as we are gratified by your stated view that Jerusalem is the eternal and indivisible capital of the State of Israel."

Dr. Ganchrow also raised a question about Mrs. Clinton's reference to the "timing" of the move. "The timing of such a move is an issue that we look forward to discussing with you," Dr. Ganchrow wrote. "Five years have passed without fulfillment of the United States law that, indeed, confirms your position that Jerusalem is the eternal indivisible capital of Israel. And yet, the move has not been made and the Administration continues to stall in its implementation. The law does not link the move to the completion of the peace process."

Dr. Ganchrow wrote to Mrs. Clinton, "How you would vote as Senator regarding removing the President's waiver powers on the move to Jerusalem, is certainly an issue for discussion."

A bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Senator Lieberman, a Democrat of Connecticut, and Senator Kyl, a Republican of Arizona, are working on legislation to express their anger at Mr. Clinton's waiver of the law. One option involves withholding funding from the State Department. Another provides for an amendment to the law that strikes the waiver provision altogether.

The head of Mayor Giuliani's Senate exploratory committee, Bruce Teitelbaum, said, "As a candidate for the U.S. Senate from New York, one's position on these issues is of paramount importance to the Jewish community." Mr. Teitelbaum said the mayor had already taken a strong position on Jerusalem. "There are many issues regarding the status of Jerusalem. One is the location of the U.S. Embassy. Two is the matter of a unified Jerusalem under Israeli control and, overall, the status of Jerusalem," Mr. Teitelbaum said.

A senior adviser to Mr. Moynihan who helped craft the original Jerusalem Embassy Act, David Luchins, praised the first lady's statement. "The era of legislation is over. We now need allies to get the administration to follow the law of the land," said Mr. Luchins, who met with Mrs. Clinton last month. "What better ally could we have than the first lady?"

The executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Malcolm Hoenlein, called Mrs. Clinton's statements "helpful." "We welcome any reaffirmation of the view that

Jerusalem is Israel's capital," he said.

Mr. Hoenlein criticized the White House for calling Tel Aviv Israel's capital. "No one ever said Tel Aviv is the capital of Israel. Our embassy may be there, but it is U.S. law that Jerusalem is the capital. The statement by Mr. Crowley is contrary to American law and is totally unacceptable," Mr. Hoenlein said.

[Colonel Crowley called back on Wednesday to amend his statement, saying now, "Israel considers Jerusalem its capital. The United States does not take a position."]

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, said, "Thank God, sometimes politics play in favor of what's the right thing. It looks like she's planning to run in New York. That's what democracy is all about. It's good to have her on our side."

The national president of the Zionist Organization of America, Morton Klein, praised part of Mrs. Clinton's statement, but also raised questions about it. When her quotes were first read to him, Mr. Klein said, "She really wants to be a senator from New York." He added, however, that Mr. Clinton had issued a similarly strong statement during the 1992 presidential campaign. "I consider this as the same as the other Clinton's position when the other Clinton was running for office in 1992," Mr. Klein said. Mr. Klein also challenged Mrs. Clinton's referring to the timing of the embassy move. "When they're saying it's not the right time, they're talking about giving in to Arab threats. It's simply caving in to threats of terror," Mr. Klein said.

Hillary Clinton Backs Israel On Jerusalem

REUTERS 11.57 a.m. ET (1559 GMT) July 8, 1999

WASHINGTON — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, breaking with U.S. official policy, told an Orthodox Jewish organization based in New York that she considers Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel."

She also promised that, if New Yorkers elected her to the U.S. Senate, she would support a strong Israel and favor moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, she said.

She took the unorthodox policy positions in a letter to the Orthodox Union dated July 2 and obtained by Reuters Thursday. The Orthodox Union represents about 750 orthodox Jewish synagogues across the United States.

U.S. policy is that Israel and the Palestinians should decide the fate of Jerusalem in talks on "final status" issues, together with borders, refugees and Jewish settlements.

U.S. leaders have said they do not want to see the city again divided, as it was between 1948 and 1967, but they have never publicly accepted the Israeli view that it is the "eternal and indivisible" capital of the Jewish state.

Palestinians see the old eastern and mainly Arab part of the city, captured by Israel in the 1967 war, as the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

A U.S. official described Hillary Clinton's letter as "untimely," coming just as a new Israeli government has raised hopes of progress in Middle East talks.

The first lady, who is exploring the possibility of running for the Senate in New York next year, made the promises in response to a letter on June 8 from Mandell Ganchrow, the president of the Orthodox Union.

Ganchrow asked if she considered Jerusalem to be the indivisible eternal capital of Israel and if she would vote to deprive the U.S. president of his authority to delay the process of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

The retiring senator whose seat she would contest, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, has been strongly pro-Israeli. He was one of the sponsors of the 1995 legislation which called on the administration to move the embassy by May 31 this year.

"I personally consider Jerusalem the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel, and I admire the leadership shown by Sen. Moynihan on this issue," Clinton answered.

"If I am chosen by New Yorkers to be their senator, ... you can be sure that I will be an active, committed advocate for a strong and secure Israel able to live in

peace with its neighbors, with the United States Embassy located in its capital, Jerusalem," she added.

Hillary Clinton added one condition for the embassy move. "The timing ... must be sensitive to Israel's interest in achieving a secure peace with its neighbors," she wrote.

The letter did not take a position on whether the president should have the right to delay a move.

Her husband, President Clinton, used his waiver power in June, saying the embassy must stay in Tel Aviv for the moment "to protect our critical national security interests, most crucially in preserving the prospects for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

An embassy move at this stage would infuriate Palestinians and other Arabs, who refuse to recognize Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem and continue to consider it occupied territory subject to the Geneva conventions.

Hillary Clinton's previous intervention in Middle East politics was also controversial, in the opposite direction.

In May 1998 she said a Palestinian state should emerge from Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank. The White House said her remark reflected her personal opinion and did not mark a change in U.S. policy.

The Orthodox Union said it was releasing her letter because "it is crucial that the Jewish community of New York be informed of her opinions concerning Israel and Jerusalem."

Her possible Republican rival for the Senate seat, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, has won over many formerly Democratic Jews with strongly pro-Israeli positions.

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To: Toby C. Graff/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed support for Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital of Israel" in a July 2 letter to the Orthodox Union. In the letter, which was released on Wednesday, Clinton also endorsed moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but said "the timing of such a move must be sensitive to Israel's interest in achieving a secure peace with its neighbors." Earlier this year, Clinton tried to distance herself from her previous support for a Palestinian state, saying that the issue should be left to final-status negotiations between the two parties.

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To: Toby GRATH From: LAUREN GELFOND
Convention Press Office
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HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, selected Hillary Rodham Clinton for its highest humanitarian honor, the Henrietta Szold Award, for the First Lady's lifetime work on behalf of women and children. Henrietta Szold, a Baltimore-born educator and humanitarian, founded Hadassah to answer an emergency medical crisis affecting women and children living in historic Palestine. Hadassah is extremely proud to honor the First Lady in this way. According to National President Marlene E. Post: "We can think of no more appropriate recipient than the First Lady for this year's Henrietta Szold Award."

Background

- Hadassah is a humanitarian, service-oriented organization that supports major medical, educational, and social service institutions in Israel and promotes educational and other volunteer activities in this country.
- Hadassah is the largest women's, largest Jewish, largest Zionist organization in the U.S. with over 300,000 members in chapters and units in every Congressional district.
- As a Zionist organization, we profoundly believe in the centrality of Israel and act on our principles through good deeds. In the last four years we have sent \$188 million to Israel; this year Hadassah sent more teens to Israel than any North American program has ever sent.
- The decision to select the First Lady for the Henrietta Szold Award was reached by an overwhelming majority vote of the organization's democratically elected legislative body. Because of the First Lady's overwhelming popularity with Hadassah members, the awards banquet is oversold with a record attendance.
- The award was established in 1949 when its first recipient was Eleanor Roosevelt. Among the recipients in the last 50 years have been physicians, statesmen, elected officials and other humanitarians. Some examples: Elie Weisel; Dr. Christian Barnard; Simone Weil; George Schultz; Jeanne Kirkpatrick; Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.
- As a humanitarian, service-oriented volunteer organization, Hadassah is non-partisan in nature and as such does not endorse or promote the candidacy of any individual seeking political office. The decision to select the First Lady was made last September, long before her interest in running for public office was known. We are giving her this award for humanitarian reasons and in no way endorse her potential candidacy or any aspect of her platform.

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FIRST LADY TO RECEIVE HENRIETTA SZOLD AWARD FROM HADASSAH

Honored for her commitment to women's health, children's welfare, education and human rights

(Washington, DC -- July 25, 1999) -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will receive the Henrietta Szold Award, Hadassah's highest honor, Tuesday evening, July 27, at the 85th National Convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, to be held in Washington, DC. On the fiftieth anniversary of the award, the First Lady is being honored for her vision and commitment to women's health, children's welfare, education and human rights.

Since its establishment in 1949, the humanitarian award has honored a woman or man who represents the ideals and beliefs of Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah. The recipient has traditionally been a world leader or a prominent figure in a variety of fields. First recipient of the Henrietta Szold Award was Eleanor Roosevelt. Over the years, doctors, statesmen, elected officials and other humanitarians have received the award.

Mrs. Clinton is the founder of the Arkansas Advocates for Children. She has volunteered her expertise at the Children's Defense Fund and the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession. As First Lady, she has championed increased immunizations for preschool-aged children, innovative prenatal care, and public awareness of the impact of tobacco on children. Her advocacy work was central to the passage of the Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997. As a good will ambassador abroad, Mrs. Clinton promotes equality in education for girls and boys, microcredit as a means to economic self-sufficiency, and the development of voluntary sectors in emerging democracies.

Mrs. Clinton's name was placed into nomination for this award in September, 1998, long before her intentions to explore a Senate candidacy in New York were known. She was approved overwhelmingly by the Greater Metropolitan Area Board of Hadassah, one of its

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key governing bodies. As a 501C3 organization, Hadassah is prevented from taking partisan support on behalf of any individual candidate. By awarding her its highest honor, the organization is endorsing only her humanitarian activities and values and not her potential candidacy, or any aspect of it.

"We are extremely proud to be giving this award to the First Lady. I can think of no more appropriate recipient than she. Her interests in the welfare of women and children mirror those of our visionary founder, Henrietta Szold," said Marlene E. Post, National President of Hadassah. In addition, she pointed out, that because of the First Lady's overwhelming popularity with Hadassah members, the awards banquet is oversold with a record attendance.

Henrietta Szold, born in 1860, began her life of public service in her native Baltimore and ended it in her beloved Palestine in 1945. A teacher of English as a second language to Russian immigrants, she later became the editorial secretary of the Jewish Publication Society and the first woman to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. In 1912, the Jewish study group she had earlier organized with twelve women friends became Hadassah, founded to bring public health services to pre-state Israel. Among Hadassah's first actions was to send two trained nurses to historic Palestine to combat the trachoma (eye disease) epidemic rampant among children and to provide nursing mothers and their babies with fresh, pasteurized milk.

From those earliest beginnings, Hadassah has grown into the largest women's, largest Jewish and largest Zionist organization in the U.S. With 306,000 women in 1,500 chapters and units in every Congressional district, the organization supports a network of Israeli health, education and youth institutions, plus an extensive program of health education, Jewish education, social action, community volunteerism projects in the U.S.

Following the presentation of the Henrietta Szold Award to the First Lady, two young Israelis will give citations to Mrs. Clinton (see attached release). In addition, Bormie Lipton, of Pittsfield, MA, will be inaugurated as the 22nd National President of Hadassah (see attached release) and Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, will offer his greetings.

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Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest women's and largest Jewish organization in the US. In Israel it supports the Hadassah Medical Organization, youth and education institutions, reforestation and parks development. In the US it promotes women's health education, community volunteerism, social action and advocacy, Jewish education and research, partnerships with Israel, and the Young Judea youth movement.



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Young Israelis Join Hadassah in DC to Honor First Lady

WASHINGTON, DC, July 21, 1999—Two young Israelis who credit Hadassah with saving their lives are joining the organization on July 27 in Washington, DC to honor First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for her humanitarian work.

Ziv Hazanovsky of Jerusalem, known for his heroic efforts that saved a bus-load of children from a suicide bomber, will present the First Lady with a tablet carved with a dove, explaining his hopes that the peace process continue.

In October of 1998, the 26-year-old reserve soldier was escorting a busload of 44 children, ages 6-14, to school. Hazanovsky swerved his jeep and intercepted a suicide bomber trying to drive 170 pounds of explosives into the bus. Hazanovsky, who was not expected to survive his numerous injuries from the blast, made an inspiring recovery at Hadassah Hospital. His remarks at Hadassah's 85th National Convention will include:

"At first, no one thought I would live. As time went on, no one thought I would walk. With the help of Hadassah you see that I'm here today. I'm alive. I can stand. I can walk. Maybe someday I will run. Often, I think of those kids in the bus. The terrorists who tried to blow them up wanted to destroy the peace process. The peace process must continue.

"Mrs. Hillary Clinton--In the memory of Yitzhak Rabin, and on behalf of all of us who have been touched by Hadassah as a bridge for peace, it is my honor to present you with this dove, a traditional symbol of peace. Your efforts for peace in the Middle East are appreciated by all of us whose lives are at stake."

Another young Israeli will also honor the First Lady, for her advocacy work on behalf of children. Liz Arviv, a 17-year-old living in a Hadassah's Meir Shefeya youth village in Israel, will present Mrs. Clinton with a plaque thanking her for "her lifelong devotion to children the world over."

Arviv, who credits her health and well-being to the Hadassah youth village that raised her, will explain to the First Lady, "I hear you wrote a book called *It Takes A Village*. Well, Mrs. Clinton, I was raised by a village—by a Hadassah youth village. They saved my life and gave me hope in the future again." Arviv grew up with Hadassah after her father abandoned home and ended up in jail, her relationship with her mother soured, and she turned to drugs for comfort.

Hadassah is honoring First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at their 85th National Convention with the Henrietta Szold Award, paying tribute to her humanitarian service on behalf of women, children and social welfare. The First Lady's appearance will be the high point of the four-day convention, which will be attended by 2,500 delegates from the US organization. Hadassah—the largest Jewish and largest Zionist organization in the US—supports Israel's Hadassah Medical Organization, Hadassah College of Technology, Hadassah Career Counseling Institute, and Youth Aliyah villages. Hadassah also partners with The Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet Le'Israel) to build public parks and plant trees in Israel.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Photo contact: Roberta Elliott or Lauren Gelfond 202.797.4841

HADASSAH HONORS THE JEWISH WOMEN IN CONGRESS Hillary Rodham Clinton to Speak Tuesday

WASHINGTON, DC, July 25, 1999 — Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, honored the five Jewish women of Congress during the opening ceremonies of its 85th National Convention in Washington, DC Sunday night.

Hadassah National President Marlene E. Post [far left] chats with U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) [in red] and Shelley Berkley (D-NV) [in black] and with Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) [far right]. The "Every Action Counts" congressional award pays homage to the women as model citizens who set the highest example of participation in American civic life. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) [not pictured] also received the award.

"I don't think there's ever been an occasion in which women of the same religious heritage in Congress have been honored by an organization," Sen. Feinstein told the delegates.

"Hadassah has always encouraged its members to be active and vocal citizens," Post said. "At a time when all women continue to be underrepresented in official policy-setting arenas, the Jewish women of Congress serve as ideal role models. They are strong advocates on issues of concern to women, the Jewish community and Israel."

All five Members of Congress are also Life Members of Hadassah.

Tuesday night the delegates are scheduled to hear from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who will receive the organization's highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Award.

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America is the largest Jewish and largest women's organization in the US. Hadassah promotes health education, volunteerism, social action and advocacy, Jewish education and research, and the Young Judea youth movement. In Israel, Hadassah supports medical care, medical research, educational and youth institutions, reforestation, and parks development.

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HADASSAH'S 85TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 25-28, 1999

...and I set my rainbow in the clouds את קשתי נתתי בענן... WASHINGTON, D.C.

For Immediate Release, Press Contact: Roberta Elliott (212) 303-8153; Lauren Gelfond (212) 303-4505

Convention Highlights at a Glance

SUNDAY, JULY 25

7:30-11pm OPENING SESSION: Multi-media show celebrating Hadassah projects and Jewish women in America from the 1600's. Special award ceremony honoring the Jewish women of Congress: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL); Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV). Greetings: Ambassador Zalman Shoval.

MONDAY, JULY 26

7:45-9am SHAHARIT / HEBREW NAMING CEREMONY

10am-12 SESSION: FIRST AMENDMENT / RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. Speakers: Rep. Jerrold L. Nadler (D-NY); Barry Lynn, Exec. Dir., Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Rabbi David Saperstein, Religious Action Center Director; Howard Kurtz, Washington Post.

10am-12 SESSION: GENETIC DISCRIMINATION. Speakers: Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY); Dr. Francis Collins, Human Genome Research Institute Director; Professor Karen Rothenberg, University of Maryland School of Law; Rabbi Gerald Wolpe.

10am-12 SESSION: HATE CRIMES / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD); Alice Cahana, Holocaust Survivor; Bonnie Campbell, Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice; Morris Casuto, San Diego Anti-Defamation League.

1:30-3:30pm SESSION: TERRORISM. Speakers: Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI); Prof. Leonard Cole, Rutgers University; Charles A. Duelfer, Deputy Executive Chairman, United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq.

1:30-3:30pm SESSION: PEACE PROCESS. Speakers: Ambassador Zalman Shoval; Ambassador Martin Indyk; AIPAC Exec. Dir. Howard Kohr; Jerusalem Report Editor David Horovitz.

1:30-3:30pm SESSION: JEWISH HEROINES. Speakers: Author Naomi Ragen; Author Suruba Wehler; Linda Sher, Founder/Director of Special Projects Joint Action Committee; Shulamit Reinharz, Director of Hadassah-sponsored International Research Institute on Jewish Women.

7pm-12 FORUM & FILM: ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL. Speakers: Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA); Washington State Insurance Commissioner Deborah Senn. Legislative responses to hate crimes and the Holocaust. Documentary: "The Last Days" by Steven Spielberg, 9:30pm.

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TUESDAY, JULY 27

- 7:45am-12:30 DAY ON CAPITOL HILL. Meetings with Elected Officials.
- 1:30-2:45pm PLENARY: ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGES. Speakers: New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman; Ben Gurion University President, Prof. Avishay Braverman; Hebrew University's Director of the Lafer Center for Women's Studies, Galia Golan.
- 7:30-11pm BANQUET. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to accept the Henrietta Szold Award. New Hadassah President to be invested. Performer: Neshama Carlebach. Greetings: Ronald Lauder, Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

- 9:45-10:45pm SESSION: HADASSAH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, "Women Who Dared." Ten simultaneous speakers: Metropolitan Opera star Roberta Peters, AMFAR Director Dr. Mathilde Krim, Texas Supreme Court Judge Ruby Sondock; AGUNAH founder Susan Aranoff; Shoshana Cardin, former Chair, Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations; Lilith Editor Susan Weidman Schneider; author Ruth Gruber; Marcia Freedman, former Member of Knesset; Rabbi Lori Forman, Dir. of Jewish Resources, UJA-Federation; Edith Everett Stockbroker/Investment Counselor.
- 11:45am-2:30 CLOSING LUNCHEON. Performers: Debbie Friedman, Peter Yarrow.

Opening, Banquet, Plenaries & Closing to be Accompanied By Interpreter for the Deaf & Video Broadcast

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HADASSAH ANNUAL CONVENTION SET FOR WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 25-28 Hillary Clinton and Jewish Congresswomen to be Honored; Special Advocacy Session Will Bring 2,000 Delegates to the Hill

(New York, NY -- July 14, 1999) -- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will top the list of government officials, legislators, policymakers and academic experts on the rostrum at Hadassah's National Convention, to be held Sunday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 28, 1999 at the Washington Hilton and Towers, in Washington, DC.

Making full use of the vast resources in the nation's capital, the 2,500 delegates to the organization's 85th National Convention will spend four days furthering their education, deliberating and advocating on U.S., Israeli and Zionist policy, voting on organizational governance issues, and celebrating the empowerment of Jewish women.

- Setting the tone for the days that follow, the convention's kick-off event will honor the five Jewish women members of Congress: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA); Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY); Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL); and Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV).
- In what may be one of the largest "Day on the Hill" events, some 2,000 participants will bring Hadassah's voice to Capitol Hill on July 27. During a morning of meetings with Senators and Representatives, Hadassah activists will discuss genetic discrimination, hate crimes, the Middle East peace process and foreign aid.
- Throughout the convention, the delegates will prepare for their role as advocates with sessions that will address First Amendment and religious rights, domestic violence and hate crimes, genetic discrimination, US foreign policy, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, Jewish values, and Israel and the peace process. Speakers will include Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk; Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA); Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD); Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY); Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY); journalists Thomas Friedman and Howard Kurtz; Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute Dr. Francis Collins; AIPAC Executive Director Howard Kohr; Rabbi David Saperstein; and Prof. Avishay Braverman, president of Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
- The highpoint of the convention will be the annual awards banquet, Tuesday evening, July 27. This year, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will receive Hadassah's highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Award, named after the organization's visionary founder. Mrs. Clinton, the 50th recipient since the award's establishment in 1949 (the first recipient was another first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt), is being honored for her vision and commitment to women's health, children's welfare, education and human rights.

- more -



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HADASSAH'S 85TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 25-28, 1999

...and I set my rainbow in the clouds נתתי בענן את קשת... WASHINGTON, D.C.

- At the same banquet, in the presence of the First Lady, Hadassah's 22nd National President will be invested, having been elected by the delegates earlier in the day. Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, will offer his greetings.
- On July 28, the Hadassah Leadership Academy, launched last year to train female leaders in the Jewish community, will celebrate "Giant Steps...Jewish Women Who Dared." Ten simultaneous sessions, each spotlighting a Jewish woman trailblazer in her field, will include Metropolitan Opera star Roberta Peters, AIDS researcher and activist Dr. Mathilde Krim, Susan Aranoff, founder of the movement to support *agunot*; communal leader Shoshana Cardin; former Knesset member Marcia Freedman; and author Ruth Gruber, among others.

This year's convention is chaired by Annette Sondock of Houston, TX and co-chaired by Eddyse Kessler of Key Largo, FL. All major sessions will be signed for the deaf. For registration information, please call (877) 790-2676.

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Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest women's, largest Jewish and largest Zionist organization in the U.S. In Israel, it supports the Hadassah Medical Organization, youth and education institutions, reforestation and parks development. In the U.S., it promotes women's health education, community volunteerism, social action and advocacy, Jewish education and research, partnerships with Israel, and the Young Judaea youth movement.

NEW YORK

The Jewish Week

SERVING GREATER NEW YORK / \$1.00 / JULY 2, 1999/18 TAMMUZ 5759

Hillary As The Enemy

Hillary Rodham Clinton is not even a candidate yet in the New York senatorial race and already she is being attacked by some Jewish groups as the potential senator from Palestine.

It is true that she has made comments in the past supportive of Palestinian statehood, but regardless of where she stands on the issue, and a host of others, we think it is unwise for responsible members of the Jewish community to demonize her, particularly at this early stage.

Clinton has evoked strong reactions from people, pro and con, since coming to Washington in 1993. Critics acknowledge that she is very bright; supporters admit that she can be quite headstrong. But our issue here is not to determine whether or not she would be an ideal candidate for the local Senate race. That's up to the Democratic Party.

What concerns us is this early attempt to portray

her as a pro-Arab — and by implication, anti-Israel — potential candidate.

Mainstream Jewish organizations left, right and center on the political spectrum have done an excellent job over the years of educating men and women in government about Israel as a democratic ally of the U.S. Through sponsored trips to the Jewish state and other lobbying efforts, leaders of our community have underscored the point that Israel is a vibrant bastion of freedom in the Mideast, deeply committed to peace but with serious and very real concerns about national security.

Clinton's expertise to date has been domestic rather than foreign policy issues. We think it would be far wiser, and more effective, to reach out and seek to educate her about Israel's goals and worries rather than to cast her as the enemy of the Jewish people, thus putting up barriers instead of bridges even before she becomes a candidate.

The Jewish Week

SERVING GREATER NEW YORK / \$1.00 / JUNE 25, 1999/11 TAMMUZ 5759

Hadassah Squeezed On Hillary Honor

Hadassah, the huge international women's Zionist organization, is feeling the heat for its decision to give first lady Hillary Clinton the group's highest award at its national convention in July.

But Hadassah leaders are sticking with their board's decision despite opposition by what they say is a small minority.



Hadassah's recognition of First Lady Hillary Clinton causes heated debate in Jewish community.

Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, insisted that the award is inappropriate. In response to the Hadassah invitation, he said "we have informed our members around the country that [Clinton] personally invited Arab and Muslim groups who have publicly praised Hamas and Hezbollah to the White House. She has given credibility and legitimacy to groups who are not only hostile to Israel, but who have praised Israel's enemies."

He also pointed to Clinton's statements last year expressing support for full Palestinian statehood, and said it is inappropriate for a Zionist group to honor her.

Marlene Post, the group's national president, expressed outrage at what she said is an orchestrated campaign to give the humanitarian award a political charge.

"It's disgraceful that anyone in the Jewish community would attack an organization with our history, which

invests so heavily in Israel and which has members from all parts of the Jewish world," she said.

She said Hadassah officials have received several hundred letters complaining about the award.

She rejected the charge that Clinton is hostile to Israel.

"I spent many hours with her during her visit to Israel in December, and I only heard positive comments," she said.

"She has a definite love of Israel. It is true that she has been a supporter of certain solutions to the Palestinian problem, but so have been a majority of Israeli voters."

Lynn Turkington, a vice president of the Philadelphia chapter, said that "a lot of us are going to the convention at least in part because Ms. Clinton will be there. She's a strong advocate of the issues that Hadassah believes in — women, children, health care."

More uncomfortable for the group is Ms. Clinton's status as an all-but-announced candidate for the Senate from New York.

But Post said that "we made the decision back in September; we didn't know she was running for political office then." □

Hillary Courting Jewish Vote as Protesters Plan to Burn Hadassah Cards

By SETH GITELL

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton is intensifying her push to court New York's Jewish voters for her effort to replace Senator Moynihan, who is retiring. She met for two hours with an Orthodox leader who is an aide to Mr. Moynihan, and she is naming a key Jewish aide to the staff of her exploratory committee.

In a meeting brokered by Mr. Moynihan's wife, Elizabeth, Mrs. Clinton met last week for two hours with a senior adviser to Mr. Moynihan, David Luchins. Following the meeting at the Moynihans' Washington apartment, Mrs. Clinton's exploratory committee appointed the chief of staff of Rep. Nita Lowey, Howard Wolfson, to serve as its spokesman; Mr. Wolfson handled the press for Senator Schumer's successful 1998 Senate run.

Mrs. Clinton also dropped by, unannounced, during a visit this week to the White House by the Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox group.

Mrs. Clinton is trying to overcome anger in the Jewish community over her 1998 statement in support of a Palestinian state. That statement, which was protested at the time even by centrist groups such as the American Jewish Committee, lacked the usual caveats about

demilitarization, and it also differed with the official American government position that statehood is a matter for negotiation between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. While

slightly adjusted her statements on Palestinian statehood, some Jews still hold it against her. This week, for instance, a group called Americans for a Safe Israel was planning a public burning of Hadassah membership cards in protest of the women's organization's decision to

honor Mrs. Clinton with its Henrietta Szold award.

Mrs. Clinton also alienated some Jewish leaders by her recent appearance at the White House with the Rev. Al Sharpton and by her hosting at the White House of American Muslim and Arab groups that have been critical of America's support for Israel. Still, some political analysts say Mrs. Clinton can ride her record on women's and children's issues and education to a strong showing among a group of voters that has overwhelmingly supported her husband in the last two presidential elections. Moreover, the recent election of Ehud Barak in Israel may narrow the gaps between Mrs. Clinton's positions on Middle East matters and those of the Israeli government. That could help push Mrs. Clinton, a Democrat,

past her likely Republican opponent, Mayor Giuliani, who has won strong support from New York Jewish voters in two citywide races.

"The purpose of the meeting was to educate Mrs. Clinton as to the aspirations, concerns and needs of a significant segment of the Jewish community," said Mr. Luchins, the Moynihan aide who is also an officer in the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and in the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. "It's a long time, a year and a half. In a year and a half, Hillary Clinton is going to learn everything about New York. We discussed specific things she can and should do. You're going to see a concerted effort to reach out."

While declining to make a formal endorsement, Mr. Luchins said, "I will do whatever I legally can to help her learn about the needs and interests of the people of New York. I think she has the potential of being a superstar in the U.S. Senate."

"She is seriously considering running," Mr. Wolfson told the Forward. "She is taking a lot of time meeting New Yorkers all over the state," said Mr. Wolfson, who joined Mrs. Clinton's staff last Saturday. He said she would start a tour of New York, beginning at Mr. Moynihan's country home, this month.

Mr. Luchins, in an interview with the Forward, declined to discuss the substance of his conversation with the first lady. He did say, however, "She was forceful and clear on the Jerusalem issue. That's not going to be an issue. She's going to be a worthy successor in every way to Pat Moynihan. If she chooses to run for the Senate, she will do as well in the Jewish community — and better in the Orthodox community — than Chuck Schumer."

Mr. Luchins said he is not joining Mrs. Clinton's staff. "I am not working for the first lady. I work for Senator Moynihan, and we are working with the first lady to help her understand and appreciate the citizens of New York state and their interests," Mr. Luchins said.

In addition to bringing extensive experience with the general press, Mr. Wolfson is deeply knowledgeable about the Jewish community and issues relating to Israel. Ms. Lowey, his former employer, is a member of the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee that handles aid to Israel. Having left Ms. Lowey's staff to help elect Mr. Schumer, Mr. Wolfson also played a part in the most significant Democratic victory in the Empire State of the 1990s — the defeat of

Mrs. Clinton's gestures represent overtures to different fiefdoms in the balkanized New York Democratic community.

Mrs. Clinton spoke to the Agudath Israel of America delegation about the administration's effort to free the 13 Jews imprisoned in Iran on trumped-up charges of espionage. She also spoke of the administration's commitment to family and children's issues, said the Aguda's executive vice president for government and public affairs, David Zwiebel.

"She's clearly making an effort to learn the political ecology of the Jewish community in New York, which is different than in other states," said the director of the Taub Urban Research Center at New York University, Mitchell Moss. "The Jewish community in New York is a complex network of communities, many of whom don't communicate with each other. There is no one Jewish voting block."

The chairman of the Young Jewish Leadership Pac, a Republican group, David Javdan, said Mrs. Clinton's effort to win Jews over would likely meet with some success. "We saw with Al D'Amato that a large portion of the Jewish community favors Democrats," Mr. Javdan said. "I think it's a horrendous mistake. The Jewish community is being short-sighted in supporting people who don't support it."

The director of Mr. Giuliani's exploratory committee, Bruce Teitelbaum, said the Moynihan news came as no surprise to him. "We're confident that the mayor's strong record on issues of importance to the Jewish community will mean that he will continue to receive strong support from the Jewish community. The mayor's positions on seminal issues to the Jewish



DAVID SCULL CLINTON

community like the status of Jerusalem and the location of the American Embassy are unequivocal," Mr. Teitelbaum said.

A Democratic political consultant, Hank Sheinkopf, said he did not think the first lady's moves would be enough. "Having Jews up front doesn't matter anymore. People have seen nine years of 'Seinfeld.' Jews up front is an expected given in New York," Mr. Sheinkopf said. "It's where you stand on Jerusalem; it's where you stand on vouchers, where you stand on the appointment of Zogby, where you stand on a Palestinian state and where you stand on al-Marayati." Mr. Sheinkopf said, referring to several questions about Mrs. Clinton's connection to Clinton administration positions that have not been perceived as friendly to the Jewish community.

President Clinton invoked a national security waiver to avoid implementing a law that would have otherwise required him to move America's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv by May 31. Joseph Zogby is a former aide to the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Marlin Indyk. Mr. Zogby published articles criticizing Israel and the Oslo agreement. Salam al-Marayati is a director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council-Los Angeles who was appointed to the National Commission on Terrorism.

The executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel, Helen Freedman, is circulating an opinion piece criticizing Hadassah for planning to give Mrs. Clinton its Henrietta Szold Award. Ms. Freedman wrote "Hadassah's decision to give the 1999 Henrietta Szold award...to Hillary Clinton...is offensive to all lovers of Zion...It is the antithesis of Zionism." Ms. Freedman, a member of Hadassah, also charged that the group "is violating its own restrictions about 'prohibiting the extension of any award or honor to a

candidate for elective office." Americans for a Safe Israel is planning a July 14 demonstration at Hadassah headquarters.

Ms. Freedman provided the Forward with a Hadassah memo dated June 3, 1999, "re: Talking Points on Hillary Rodham Clinton's Choice As Our 1999 Henrietta Szold Award Recipient." One talking point states: "Hadassah supports the democratically elected government of Israel. The government considers the Palestinians to be its peace partners and has gone on record in support of negotiating towards a final status of a Palestinian entity." Another talking point makes the claim that "Henrietta Szold...was in favor of a bi-national state shared by Jews and Palestinians."

Ms. Freedman pointed out that Szold died prior to the establishment of Israel.

Asked about the flap, a spokesman for Hadassah, Robert Elliott, provided the Forward with a statement in the name of the group's national president, Masha lene Post. "We are 300,000 women who constitute the largest women's organization in the country and come from a variety of political opinions and backgrounds," Ms. Post said. "There is a minority of our members, and some are part of an outside orchestrated campaign who have expressed great dissatisfaction in Mrs. Clinton's selection. This is to be expected in any large and diverse membership organization."

On the question of Hadassah's tax status, Ms. Elliott provided the Forward with a statement of opinion penned by a tax attorney, D. Benson Tesdahl. "Inviting Ms. Clinton to receive the Henrietta Szold Award and speak to the Hadassah audience is not a violation of Internal Revenue Code," Mr. Tesdahl's statement says. "There is nothing about this particular humanitarian award ceremony that shows an intent by Hadassah to intervene in a political campaign. Indeed, Hadassah has gone out of its way to avoid any appearance of impropriety."

PUBLIC LIVES

THE NEW YORK TIMES METRO FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1999

Facing Adversity With Devotion to Judaism

By ELISABETH BUMILLER

BONNIE LIPTON'S first words as a candidate for the presidency of Hadassah came from Deuteronomy, and her heart: "I have set before you life and death," she said to her national board, quoting Moses speaking to the Jews. "Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Mrs. Lipton understood the words better than she had ever expected, or wanted. On Jan. 11, 1998, her husband, Alan, 59, had a catastrophic skiing accident at Jiminy Peak, in Massachusetts — five months after she was told that she had breast cancer and one week after she began radiation.

In the car on the way to the hospital to see her husband, she turned to a friend and said, "Do you realize that we don't know if Alan is alive or dead, and I have to go for radiation tomorrow either way?"

Alan Lipton lived, but he is in a nursing home with severe brain damage, unable to care for himself or remember what happened five minutes before. Bonnie Lipton, who in 39 years of marriage succeeded her husband as the leader of three other Jewish organizations, has decided to carry on. She has chosen, as if it were a choice at all, life.

"After what we both went through, I decided I was going to channel all my energy into working for Hadassah and for Israel," Mrs. Lipton said. "Because that was the core of what we both believed in. And if something happened to me tomorrow — you can't help it, you realize this — I would like it to be said that I made a difference."

On July 27 in Washington, Mrs. Lipton, who is 59, is to take over as Hadassah's new president. The same day, the organization is to give Hillary Rodham Clinton an award, which was the cause of a small but well-documented (by local television cameras) protest outside Hadassah's West 58th Street headquarters on Wednesday night.

About two dozen women and men — Mrs. Lipton said she was relieved the numbers were small — burned a huge Hadassah card to protest Mrs. Clinton's support for a Palestinian state. The First Lady and likely New York Senate candidate has repeatedly said she was only expressing the views of Israel's former Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Many polls show



Librado Romero/The New York Times

Bonnie Lipton is to be inaugurated as the next president of Hadassah on July 27.

'I would like it to be said that I made a difference.'

that most Israelis accept Palestinian statehood as inevitable and even desirable, but opposition is widespread among conservative American Jews.

"We are a nonpartisan organization," Mrs. Lipton said early yesterday at Hadassah's headquarters. "We are not honoring her as a political candidate. We are honoring her as the First Lady."

BRUSHING aside the protest was only one item on Mrs. Lipton's schedule yesterday. By midmorning she was on the shuttle to Washington to attend a lunch for Nava Barak, the wife of Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel. Mrs. Lipton was planning to be back in Washington on Sunday for a White House state dinner for Mr. Barak. Meanwhile she was working on the speech she has to make on July 27. And of course, worrying about the future of Hadassah, which with

306,000 members is the largest women's and Jewish organization in the United States.

But the Zionist and social service group has shrunk from its high of more than 350,000 members in the 1980's, and has tried in recent years to attract younger women and reinvent itself. (The comedian Sandra Bernhard is a member, but more than half of Hadassah's women are over 61, and 20 percent of the membership are over 75.) "The women for whom Hadassah was their life, and who brought us where Hadassah is today, they're dying," Mrs. Lipton said.

Mrs. Lipton herself joined only when her mother-in-law gave her a lifetime membership. It was 1961, she was 21, and she felt no real need for the organization until 1971, when she moved to Pittsfield, Mass., her husband's hometown and the base of his family's steel and then used-machinery business. In 1975 she visited Israel for the first time.

"I just felt this is going to be my career, this is who I am," Mrs. Lipton said.

Over the years she volunteered her way upward at Hadassah, raised two children and accompanied her husband on his quests. "We'd see a rusty piece of something in the backyard of some company and he would light up," Mrs. Lipton said.

Her world fell apart in the summer of 1997, when she learned she had breast cancer, underwent a lumpectomy and began chemotherapy. Then it fell apart again with her husband's accident, a week after Sonny Bono and Michael L. Kennedy, a son of Robert F. Kennedy, died on the slopes.

"He didn't take risks," Mrs. Lipton said of her husband. "He wasn't out to jump the highest mogul. And he was wearing a helmet." She still doesn't know what happened, whether he slipped making a turn, or hit a tree, or both.

Mrs. Lipton now divides her time between Pittsfield, where her husband lives, and a midtown Manhattan apartment that she shares with two women. She visits her husband regularly, and sometimes talks with him on the phone.

"He can speak," she said. "He's sometimes quite appropriate. Yes, he knows who I am."

Mrs. Lipton then smiled. "And he knows I'm going to be the president."

May Regular

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