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COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND CLUELESS

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Another week has passed with yet more manifestations of madness masquerading as gestures designed to promote an illusory peace.

From tunnel tours to termites to corrosion and finally duplicitous deceptions in Ramallah, the whole gamut of what passes for international hypocrisy was on display in recent days.

Most tourists to Israel usually visit the Western Wall and also tour the spectacular tunnels beneath the Wall which show beyond doubt the ancient and historical Jewish presence in Jerusalem. Faced with irrefutable proof of how and where the Temples were constructed one leaves with a feeling of awe, not only at the complicated engineering techniques needed to build them but also at the dedication of those undertaking the task. In addition, the realization that generations of Jews walked, stood and prayed in the very places now restored, imparts a sense of being part of an ongoing march of Jewish destiny.

In contrast, tours of vastly different sorts of tunnels are taking place in Gaza this summer. Constructed with concrete intended to build homes, clinics and schools and delivered to Hamas by courtesy of Israel's misguided humanitarian gestures, these terror tunnels serve a sinister agenda. They exist for the sole purpose of carrying out terror and murder of Israelis, a stark fact which the international community prefers to ignore.

During the current summer school vacation, Hamas has organized tours of these facilities combined with an exhibition of weapons and explanations of various methods for murdering Israelis. There are posters extolling the bravery and martyrdom of terrorists killed in carrying out attacks and by all accounts these tours are proving to be a great success with long lines of youth waiting to take part in these "educational" excursions.

Contrast the reaction of the United Nations and various politicians. Hardly a day goes by when some of these clueless suspects do not condemn the “occupation” of the eastern part of Jerusalem which of course includes the Western Wall and the tunnels. These are portrayed as impediments and grave threats to local, regional and world peace and therefore Jews who insist on visiting, touring and praying there are undermining prospects for attaining these unattainable objectives. On the other hand the tours of terror tunnels in Gaza elicit a deafening silence from world capitals. What better proof of hypocrisy can one find?

Now to the termites infesting our country. Addressing an anti Israel audience at the Democratic National Convention, a congressman from Georgia equated Jews living in Judea and Samaria to termites. He stated: ***“There has been a steady [stream], almost like termites can get into a residence and eat before you know that you’ve been eaten up and you fall in on yourself, there has been settlement activity that has marched forward with impunity and at an ever-increasing rate to the point where it has become alarming.”***

“Jewish people” routinely steal land and property from Palestinians”.

For good measure a former member of the House of Representatives posted on twitter that Israel was complicit in the recent terror attacks in Nice and Munich.

These clueless assertions from self styled “progressives” instead of advancing peace merely banish it entirely.

As though ascribing termite qualities to Jews living in parts of their homeland was not outrageous enough, a State Department spokesperson claimed that building homes for Jews in Gilo, a suburb of Jerusalem, was “corrosive.” So not only are we termites but apparently we also have corrosive qualities which as everyone knows destroy anything in its path. What other democracy is routinely accused of harbouring termites and engaging in destructive corrosive behaviour? The answer of course is none and thereby is exposed yet

another example of double standards and animosity on a grand scale.

To round off yet another vintage week we had the spectacle of a former New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and now special representative to the Palestinian Authority, Sir Jim McLay, making an official visit to Ramallah. In the normal course of events there would be nothing exceptional in this encounter. However there are some aspects to this meeting which merit comment and closer scrutiny.

Jim McLay met Hanan Ashrawi, an executive committee member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The meeting took place at the PLO headquarters in Ramallah. Ms. Ashrawi whose past accusations against Israel are as far from the truth as one can get, discussed Israel's "violations of international law and the lack of international will to bring about a just solution," as the PLO press release termed it.

Other matters discussed were: New Zealand's presidency of the UN Security Council next month, the election of a new Secretary General and New Zealand's ideas for a political initiative as originally raised in 2015. Ashrawi praised New Zealand's positive role and continued backing of "Palestine" at the UN and looked forward to joint co-operation and official recognition of "Palestine" in the immediate future.

There are questions which need to be asked as a result of this meeting.

Why was Jim McLay meeting a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at its headquarters instead of an official of the Palestinian Authority? As its name implies the goal is the liberation of Palestine which in plain language stripped of all diplomatic double speak means the liberation of Israel as well. Despite assertions to the contrary, it is clear to anyone listening and reading the PA media and perusing textbooks used in schools, that the ultimate objective is a State cleansed of all Jews followed by a takeover of whatever happens to be left of the Jewish State. Are the NZ foreign ministry

officials so unaware of this that they have no compunction in meeting a PLO official in PLO headquarters? Did Mr. McLay make a protest about the continual incitement, lauding of terrorists hailed as martyrs and payments made to their families? Hardly likely would be the answer.

If you look closely at the logo of the PLO you will see a map of "Palestine" which encompasses all of present day Israel. This is what Jim McLay apparently has no objection to as he is photographed with Ms. Ashrawi.

http://dci.plo.ps/EN/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4845:july-31-2016-dr-ashrawi-meets-with-newly-appointed-new-zealand-representative-the-hon-sir-jim-mclay&catid=92:news&Itemid=420

My guess, confirmed by usually well informed sources, is that this diplomatic visit has two main objectives. First, to garner votes for Helen Clark's bid for the job of UN Secretary General. Second, to prepare the ground for Murray McCully's final splash on the world stage next month when he will once again engage in yet another fruitless, ill conceived and misguided attempt to solve the unsolvable. Pressuring Israel to appease those who refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the Jewish State, who educate and promote hate and incitement and who have turned down every opportunity for peace since at least 1947, displays a lamentable lack of understanding as to what really are the root causes of the continuing conflict.

Interestingly and very telling is the apparent silence by the two Macs.

Nothing has been reported of any response to Ms. Ashrawi's outrageous assertions. What quid pro quo was offered for voting in favour of Helen Clark's candidacy? What promises were made as to any new initiatives at the UN?

We wait for answers but one thing is certain. Don't expect Israel to roll over and embrace anything concocted by a foreign minister who has publicly stated that stabbing and murdering Israelis is not considered terror in his eyes.