Jabotinsky at the President’s Residence, Jerusalem

A delegation from the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel and the WZO Zionist Library has personally presented Israeli President Reuven Rivlin with the newly-released Volume 13 of Jabotinsky’s Letters, devoted to the year 1938.

The high-level delegation to the President’s Residence on February 11, 2015, included Jabotinsky Institute representatives Professor Arye Naor, Mordechai Sarig, Dr. Karni Rubin-Jabotinsky, Dr. Moshe Halevi, Lior Haimovich, and Yossi Ahimeir. The Zionist Library, co-publishers of the Jabotinsky’s Letters series, was represented by Amos Yovel, director of the Bialik Institute, and attorney Yaakov Aharoni.

“Publishing the writings of the Zionist leader is a national mission,” declared President Rivlin, as he pointed to a number of volumes by Jabotinsky in his personal library. Rivlin noted that when he served as Speaker of the Knesset, he endeavored to allot a budget of five million shekels towards the publication of a new series of works by the Jabotinsky Institute. He promised that during his term as president, he will persist in demanding that the funds be fully allotted towards this goal.

Representatives from the Jabotinsky Institute briefed the president on the upcoming publication of the second volume in the series of Jabotinsky’s annotated works: Eretz Yisrael, and pointed out that all expenses involved in the publication will be transparent “to the last shekel.” They also reported on plans to expand the Institute over the “Atzma’ut Floor” in Beit Jabotinsky in Tel Aviv. The president noted that this project, too, is of the utmost importance.

President Ruvy Rivlin praised the activities of the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel, telling his guests that upon his entry to the President’s Residence, he quickly hung up a portrait of Ze’ev Jabotinsky. “Ben Gurion was here for 64 years. The time has come for both Herzl and Jabotinsky to take their places on this wall.”
“The British government, alongside the public consensus of its citizens, is supportive of Israel. This stands in contrast to the Federal Republic of Germany where the government supports Israel, but its nation’s public opinion is hostile,” declared the United Kingdom’s Ambassador to Israel Mr. Matthew Gould. Gould’s remarks were made during his visit to the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel, the first visit by a British ambassador to Israel since the Institute was founded 84 years ago.

The historic visit began when the ambassador arrived at the Institute at 11:15 AM on Thursday, January 8, accompanied by Ms. Hermione Calvocoressi and Avivit Immerman, project consultant. Jabotinsky Institute Director General Yossi Ahimeir welcomed the honored guest and his associates and introduced them to the Institute leaders who had gathered to greet them: Chairman of the Board Mordechai Sarig, Chairman of the Academic Committee Prof. Arye Naor, Board member Ariel Bulstein, and Institute researcher Yosef Kister.

Director Ahimeir cited a recent event in which the ambassador had participated, the reinterment from the United States to Israel of the ashes of Colonel John Henry Patterson. Patterson, who served as commander of the British Army’s Zion Mule Corps as well as the Jewish Legion (the Royal Fusiliers 38th Battalion), now rests alongside his fellow legionnaires in the Avihayil Military Cemetery.

Chairman of the Board Mordechai Sarig recounted memories from his days as a member of the Irgun underground fighters who waged a struggle against the British Mandatory Government, and presented the ambassador with an English-language translation of Ze’ev Jabotinsky’s Taryag Milim (Hebrew) Words. Ambassador Gould, who is the first Jewish ambassador from the United Kingdom to Israel, immediately asked about the correlation between this book’s title and the 613 Commandments of the Jewish religion.

Professor Naor showed the ambassador a document—a letter written by the director of the Revisionist Zionist Organization Ze’ev Jabotinsky to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Neville Chamberlain on the day in which Chamberlain’s government declared war upon Nazi Germany (September 4, 1939). From his residence in London, Jabotinsky appealed to the British Head of State in a telegram where Jabotinsky expressed his willingness to open a new chapter in the relationship between the two nations in the battle against Nazi Germany. Jabotinsky even submitted a memorandum on the establishment of a Jewish Army which would join in the war on the side of the Allies. In addition, the creation of a Jewish State would be determined by the Allies as a goal of the war.

At the Jabotinsky Institute Museum, Ambassador Gould and his colleagues watched the presentation “Ze’ev Jabotinsky—Historical Life-Span” and were
At a December 28, 2014 Jabotinsky Institute in Israel Seminar examining the question, “Has Germany Really Changed?” guest speaker Eldad Beck, journalist and author of the book Germany, Different, remarked, “The recent ‘Milky Yogurt’ protest and the phenomenon of ex-Israelis calling on others to join them in Germany serve to enable the German nation to sever from its past.”

According to Beck, who serves as the German correspondent for the Israeli Yedioth Achronot newspaper, the German media is making cynical use of the “Milky protest” to augment the sign that Berlin has become a city of refuge for Israelis (Jews) fleeing from their country.

How did we reach the humiliating situation where our own public discourse is focused on the cheap price of “Milky” in Berlin? Eldad Beck is convinced that this and other events taking place in Israel have led many Germans to believe that the Jews (and not the Israelis) wield a great influence over all realms of German life.

The speaker even displayed a number of opinion polls published in the German media which indicate the threat of a lurking danger to Germany by Jews and international Jewry: a return to the same reality and the same atmosphere in Germany on the eve of the Nazi rise to power (January 1933).

Such is the present state of the German media which displays enmity in its political cartoons and distorted photos of a “black and white” reality of the conflict between the Palestinians and the Jews (Israel) in Palestine. A venomous and uncontrolled, unbalanced media. The Israelis are constantly portrayed as ultra-orthodox Jews or Jewish settlers who conduct their lives at the expense of oppressing the Arabs. This distorted representation leads to a bizarre picture of a reality in our region indicating that what the Nazis (not the Germans, to the contrary) perpetrated upon the Jews is now being perpetrated by the Jews upon the Palestinians.

The more one observes what has happened to Germany since the close of World War II over than seventy years ago, it becomes more and more clear that Germany has learned nothing since that time and has forgotten everything. Eldad Beck also shattered the maxim that Germany has gained knowledge from its past and even learned valuable lessons. For example, take the study of the Holocaust. According to Beck, Holocaust studies are not included in the compulsory curriculum of the German educational system, but are merely “recommended.” The subject of anti-Semitism is also not taught within the German school system.

While the Jewish population in Germany is said to have reached 110,000, many claim that the true number of Jews there stands at one million. In comparison, the number of Moslems in the country is already nearing the five million mark! The German media devotes obsessive coverage solely to the conflict between Jews and Palestinians, to the extent that they publicize a stone-throwing incident while totally ignoring reportage on the cruel wars in the Arab world costing hundreds of thousands of lives.
“Part of our relationship with Europe and the United States is also the existence of good interpersonal relationships,” declared diplomat Gideon Levy, former Israeli Foreign Ministry executive and the Israeli Ambassador to Italy (2006-2012). Levy’s remarks were delivered in a lecture to those attending the General Meeting of the members of the Jabotinsky Institute in Israel Amuta which took place on December 25, 2014.

From his vast diplomatic experience, Ambassador Meir shared insight into the complex relationship between European nations and Israel. He also shared several personal details about himself: Meir was born in Jerusalem to a family of intellectuals who owned and operated the venerable “Ludwig Mayer Jerusalem Bookstore,” founded in 1908.

In his fascinating lecture, Meir Cohen divulged what in his day had been classified as a “diplomatic secret.” During the proceedings of the Adolf Eichmann trial, six books were delivered to Eichmann’s cell by the Ludwig Mayer Bookstore at the request of the Israel Prison Authority. The books sent for perusal by the heinous Eichmann were volumes of the history of the Jewish People and the State of Israel.

Gideon Meir is convinced that an ambassador can represent various governments in a democratic regime. “We diplomats identify with the state and the policy of the elected government, not with the party.” Meir compared the position of an ambassador to that of an attorney. During his post, a good ambassador is expected to single out the decision-makers of today and tomorrow and to attract and cultivate them.

Thus Gideon Meir had the privilege of cultivating two statesmen from Great Britain from the ranks of the Labour Party, familiarizing them with the State of Israel and the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its influence upon the relationship between Israel and the European nations. In time, these two politicians were both to become heads of state: Anthony (Tony) Blair (1997-2007) and Gordon Brown (2007-2010).

According to Meir, the tainting of the diplomatic atmosphere between Western European nations and Israel emanates from the Moslem immigration to the continent and their bringing with them a new type of anti-Semitism. Instead of assimilating into Europe, these Moslems are changing the face of the continent. Regarding Israeli diplomacy, Meir noted that in the past, settlements were built without publicizing the subject. Yet in recent years, the building is discussed even before construction starts, an act which goads hostile reactions from Europe and the United States.

As for Europe, upon whose earth millions of Jews were slaughtered during World War II, there is an objective within their guilt feelings to transform the victim to the aggressor. This is in addition to the deep-rooted anti-Semitism which developed on this very continent.

Diplomatic Secrets From Ambassador Gideon Meir

quite impressed by Jabotinsky’s contribution to Britain from World War One. The guests showed rapt interest in the exhibition, and were given an explanation of the M.B.E. Order of the British Empire award granted to Jabotinsky by King George V, grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II.

At the conclusion of his visit, the British Ambassador to Israel spoke of the relationship between the United Kingdom and the State of Israel, on the cordial diplomacy of the government under the leadership of David Cameron, and on issues of British public support for Israel in light of the ongoing conflict in our region. Gould expressed the hope for the creation of ties between the directorate of the Jabotinsky Institute with like institutes within the United Kingdom, via the good offices of the British Embassy in Israel.

German students who visited Israel (“Palestine,” as they term it) published an album of illustrations and photos accompanied by their comments. One of the photos, “Black and White” shows an IDF tank in the middle of Nazareth. Throughout the entire German educational system, the media and even the public discourse, the dominant line is that of the Palestinian narrative.

Also participating in this Jabotinsky institute Seminar were students from the Centre for Public Diplomacy and Hasbara, headed by Davidi Hermelin. In his opening remarks, Moderator Yossi Ahimeir quoted the words of Zeev Jabotinsky, who at Hitler’s rise to power warned against German anti-Semitism and called for an economic boycott of Germany.