

MEDIA MAKES THE MAN

YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ, SO
FIND OUT WHO OWNS YOU AND
YOUR PAPER. ARTS & LIFE, A2

israel
Apartheid
inside

WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR COMPUTER?
THE NEW INTEL CHIPS COME WITH SOME EXCITING
FEATURES: ACCELERATED APARTHEID SEGREGATED
GRAPHICS, PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL LAND GRABBERS,
AND BLEEDING-EDGE BANTUSTAN BENCHMARKS.
INTEL-POWERED BY ISRAELI APARTHEID, PRODUCED IN
A DEPOPULATED PALESTINIAN VILLAGE. HI-TECH, C1

~~THE VANCOUVER SUN~~

FINAL ADDITION * www.vancouversun.7p.com SERIOUSLY ZIONIST SINCE 2001 OCCUPATIONDAY, JUNE, 2007

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<p>FREE PLUS FLAT TAX</p> <p>MINIMAL VALUE OUTSIDE LOWER MAINLAND BUT WE GOUGE YOU ANYWAY</p> <p>* * * * *</p>	

Israel's sincere desire for peace

*The only thing Israel asks
for in order to end the
state of war with the
Palestinians and its Arab
neighbours, is that they
recognize Israel's right to
exist as a racist state that
discriminates by law
against Palestinians and
grants differential legal
rights and privileges to its
own Jewish citizens and to
all other Jews anywhere.*

A5

Canada Park 2 – A Unique Home Investment In The Holy Land

Enjoy exceptional Jewish-only lifestyles in Canada Park II, the West Bank's newest gated condominium complex – an easy commute located just north of Jerusalem. Breathtaking views overlooking the Jewish National Fund's serene Canada Park with its tranquil streams, lush greenery and picturesque ruins of the former Palestinian villages of Imwas, Yalu and Bayt Nuba. A 10-metre high concrete wall with sniper towers and electrified fences protects your family from unwanted annoyances and provides peace of mind. And the Government of Canada provides a tax deduction. Now you can have Greenpark quality in the Holy Land. Demolition and dispossession by Caterpillar – Official Bulldozer of the Israeli Army.

A partnership of greenpark Homes, the Jewish National Fund and the Government of Canada.

1-800-COLONISE or greenparkhomes.com.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CIVILISING THE WEST BANK

The Israeli military has had an impact on the Occupied Territories – but it is all positive.

By P. RUPA GHANDA

OTTAWA – Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was in Canada today for bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The two politicians held a joint news conference at Canadian forces Base (CFB) Trenton to celebrate 40 years of Israel brining civilization to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golon Heights and East Jerusalem.

“When the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) arrived in June 1967, these areas were backward and underdeveloped,” said Livni. The residents were still living off the land with a few sheep and olive trees as they had barely subsisted for like thousands of years, she snorted.

Prime minister Harper noted that thanks to the advanced military technology of the IOF, hundreds of unsanitary medieval villages have been demolished and replaced by large modern housing developments with bright kitchens and spotless bathrooms, “No different from home you would find in Calgary or Mississauga,” he said.

Yes, we’ve managed to bomb these territories out of the stone age, “Livni quipped. But we couldn’t have succeeded without the continual acquiescence of the international community and active assistance of great friends like Canada, she added. Livni bragged that ancient, hard-scrabble olive and fruit groves have now been superseded by hi-tech industrial parks and fully automated greenhouses that grow lush fruit, vegetables and flowers for export to Europe and the world.

Livni thanked Harper for Canada’s many contributions to the civilization of the West Bank. “The government of Canada’s tax deductions were especially helpful in establishing “Canada Park,”” she said. A beautiful verdant green family recreation area has replaced three ugly and unkept old villages that were a blight on the landscape before 1967.

She also noted that Canada’s Indian act and reserve system inspired Israel to create designated enclaves for some of the territory’s Arab residents that were hopelessly anti-progress and were fighting tooth and nail against the civilization that is blooming in their midst.

Harper replied that he wished Canada had shown Israel’s foresight to build a 10-metre-high concrete walls, sniper towers and electrified fences around its unruly native villages. “We could have stopped recent outrages such as Oka, Burnt Church and Ipperwash before they even got started,” he opined. Technology transfer is one reason the government of Canada is providing funding for Israel to help build fortified border posts in the wall to keep the locals in line, he explained.

Livni pledged that Israel would stay the course and not allow a few luddites and NIMBY nay-sayers to halt the march of modernization and prosperity. We will continue bringing the light of civilization to these blighted lands until there are new red-roofed gated Jewish communities with manicured lawns stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, she said.

Harper applauded Israel for it’s administrative innovations for such as non-violent crown control with Apache attack helicopters and combat tanks, policing and pacification operations employing fighter jets, heat-seeking missiles and one-ton bombs, as well as incarcerating thousands of dissidents without trial while forcefully persuading them to provide information.

“These techniques have been successfully transferred to Iraq and Afghanistan, and God willing we will bring them home to Canada in time for the 2010 Olympics, “ Harper sermonized.

Not Just a Holocaust Museum

By HY POKRAZY

WINNIPEG – The board of the Asper Foundation which has spearheaded the creation of a Canadian museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg has recommended that the name of the proposed institution be changed to the Canadian Human Rights and not Just a Holocaust Museum.

The foundation has entered into negotiations over the new name with the federal government which recently pledged \$100 million dollars to build the project “set in motion by CanWest media mogul Israel Asper who dreamed of having a Holocaust museum built in Canada,” according to CTV News.

At a new conference, Foundation Chair Gail Asper said the board wanted the name to reflect the priorities of the museum. She was worried that too much confusion had been created in the public’s mind by the myth that the newly funded national institution was just a Holocaust museum.

As exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum wrote in the *National Post*, one of the museum’s main themes is that “the modern idea of human rights emerged as a response to the Holocaust” – so this museum is not just about the Holocaust, Asper affirmed.

In addition to a floor called “Lessons of the Holocaust” with permanent exhibits such as Tracing the Roots of the Holocaust and Events of the Holocaust (which would constitute “the third-largest Holocaust museum in the world” according to the Jerusalem Post), rotating exhibits at the museum will creatively present Canadian stories of diverse groups, perhaps including the experience of Aboriginal children sent to residential schools, for example. So it’s definitely not just a Holocaust museum, she added.

Another level of the Museum is “devoted to the world’s response to the Holocaust, which started the modern human rights movement and prompted the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” according to Appelbaum. So it’s not just a museum about the holocaust, Asper concluded.

A spokesperson for the Asper Foundation Holocaust Studies and Human Rights program explained that the proposed institution is a sacred trust that must be kept safe from groups such as Amnesty International or the UN because they would just include boring litanies of Israel’s war crimes in Palestine and Lebanon or interminable laundry lists of UN Security Council resolutions that Israel has defied. Therefore it’s not just a Holocaust museum he noted.

See MIGHT MAKES RIGHTS B7

Study Shows Truth Biased Against Israel

By CYN SORSHEEP

ASPERVILLE – A ground-breaking new academic study has revealed that truth is inherently biased against Israel. “We expected, or at least hoped that the Truth would be fair and balanced – like *Fox News*,” said lead researcher Dr. Ig Norance, “but we were sadly disappointed – anti-Israel bias was endemic.”

Professor Norance, director of the Asper School of Business Information at the University of Winnipeg, said the study was the largest academic analysis of the Truth ever undertaken. “In most subject areas we studied, the Truth proved to be objective but it was shockingly hostile to the actions of the state of Israel.”

When the subject of Israel was investigated by researchers, the Truth would shamelessly spew anti-Israeli facts such as “Israel’s military killed 20 times more Palestinian civilians in 2006 than Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians” or “Israel continues to occupy and colonise the Palestinian lands it took by force in 1967 in defiance of international law and 32 UN security council resolutions.”

As a doubly-blind experimental control, researchers used Canadian media coverage of Israel. “We found that Canadian media portrayed Israel much better than the Truth did,” Dr. Norance noted.

Researchers confronted the truth with pictures of Israeli children killed by Palestinian suicide bombers. The Truth sullenly replied that “In the last year, the Israeli army killed more than 130 Palestinian children while Palestinians did not kill a single Israeli child. Since September 2000, 825 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers while 120 Israeli children have been killed by Palestinians.”

But shouldn’t Israel be allowed to build a fence to protect itself from terrorists, the researchers demanded of the Truth. The Truth could only respond “Israel’s 700 km long “security” wall is being built 80% on Palestinian territory, and will trap more than 50,000 Palestinians in “no mans land” on the “Israeli” side of the wall. According to the International Court of Justice the wall is illegal and should be dismantled immediately.”

The researchers were initially puzzled by the “Truth’s intransigent anti-Israeli stance. “We realized we were witnessing a new kind of new anti-Semitism – where Truth and the facts overwhelmingly condemn Israeli actions,” said Norance. “I think it is vital that the Truth be treated with mistrust and handled with care on the question of Israel.”

Leonard Asper, CEO of CanWest/Global said he was not personally surprised at the findings. “This confirms my suspicion that the Truth is fanatically anti-Israel, and vindicates our vigilance in managing the Truth about Israel’s activities in all our converged media assets,” he said.

Norance suggested that all media organizations should take similar steps so that truthful anti-Israeli bias didn’t poison their coverage and subject them to accusations of New New-Anti-Semitism. “We are not recommending outright lying,” Norance explained “just selective presentation of the Truth that is more balanced.”

As an example, he cited the common media practice of ignoring the vast majority of Palestinian civilian deaths while reporting every Israeli casualty – often without specifying if they are civilians or soldiers. “This creates the carefully balanced impression that Israelis and Palestinians civilians are dying in roughly equal numbers in this conflict despite the rabid anti-Israeli nature of the truth of the matter.”

See **VANISHING VERITAS A3**

33 Security Council Resolutions Israel Defies To This Day

This list only includes resolutions that call on Israel to undertake a specific action or stop a particular activity.

The list does not include Security Council resolutions that merely condemn an Israeli action (that would double the list), nor does it include resolutions that were violated for a number of years but are now moot (such as calling for Israel to end the occupation of southern Lebanon). It also does not include resolutions calling for joint compliance with other parties, for example, “begin negotiations.”

Finally, the list does not include more than 30 Security Council resolutions targeting Israel that have been vetoed by the United States since 1967.

Resolution 252 (1968) – Urgently calls upon Israel to rescind measures that change the legal status of Jerusalem, including the expropriation of land and properties thereon.

262 (1968) – Calls upon Israel to pay compensation to Lebanon for destruction of airliners at Beirut International Airport.

267 (1969) – Urgently calls upon Israel to rescind measures seeking to change the legal status of occupied east Jerusalem.

271 (1969) – Reiterates calls to rescind measures seeking to change the legal status of occupied east Jerusalem and calls on Israel scrupulously to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the responsibilities of occupying powers.

298 (1971) – Reiterates demand that Israel rescind measures seeking to change the legal status of occupied east Jerusalem.

446 (1979) – Calls upon Israel to scrupulously abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the responsibilities of occupying powers, to rescind previous measures that violate these relevant provisions, “and in particular, not to transport parts of its civilian population into the occupied Arab territories.”

452 (1979) -- Calls on the government of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the territories, occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

465 (1980) – Reiterates previous resolutions on Israel’s settlements policy.

471 (1980) – Demands prosecution of those involved in assassination attempts of West Bank leaders and compensation for damages; reiterates demands to abide by Fourth Geneva Convention.

484 (1980) – Reiterates request that Israel abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

487 (1981) – Calls upon Israel to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguard of the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency.

497 (1981) – Demands that Israel rescind its decision to impose its domestic laws in the occupied Syrian Golan.

573 (1985) – Calls on Israel to pay compensation for human and material losses from its attack against Tunisia and to refrain from all such attacks or threats of attacks against other nations.

592 (1986) – Insists Israel abide by the Fourth Geneva Conventions in east Jerusalem and other occupied territories.

605 (1987) – “Calls once more upon Israel, the Occupying Power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in violation of the provisions of the Convention.”

607 (1986) – Reiterates calls on Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and to cease its practice of deportation from occupied territories.

608 (1988) – Reiterates call for Israel to cease deportations.

636 (1989) – Reiterates call for Israel to cease deportations.

641 (1989) – Reiterates previous resolution calling on Israel to desist in its deportations.

672 (1990) – Reiterates calls for Israel to abide by provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories.

673 (1990) – Insists that Israel come into compliance with resolution 672.

681 (1990) – Reiterates call on Israel to abide by Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories.

694 (1991) – Reiterates that Israel “must refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilian from the occupied territories and ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported.”

726 (1992) – Reiterates calls on Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and to cease its practice of deportation from occupied territories.

799 (1992) – “Reaffirms applicability of Fourth Geneva Convention...in all Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and affirms that deportation of civilians constitutes a contravention of its obligations under the Convention.”

904 (1994) – Calls upon Israel, as the occupying power, “to take and implement measures, inter alia, confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by settlers.”

1073 (1996) – “Calls for the safety and security of Palestinian civilians to be ensured.”

1322 (2000) – Calls upon Israel to scrupulously abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the responsibilities of occupying power.

1402 (2002) – Calls on Israel to withdraw from Palestinian cities.

1403 (2002) – Demands that Israel go through with “the implementation of its resolution 1402, without delay.”

1405 (2002) – Calls for UN inspectors to investigate civilian deaths during an Israeli assault on the Jenin refugee camp.

1435 (2002) – Calls on Israel to withdraw to positions of September 2000 and end its military activities in and around Ramallah, including the destruction of security and civilian infrastructure.

1544 (2004) – “Condemning the killing of Palestinian civilians that took place in the Rafah area, Gravely concerned by the recent demolition of homes committed by Israel, the occupying power, in the Rafah refugee camp... Calls on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, and insists, in particular, on its obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to that law.”

Peter MacKay in Israel – where's Palestine?

What Canada's Foreign Minister did not see or discuss during his January 2007 visit

Despite the impression cast by corporate news coverage, there is never anything like “calm” in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The casualty count for 2006 released by Israeli human rights group B'Tselem reports that Israeli forces killed 660 Palestinians, while 17 Israeli civilians were killed, 13 of them in the West Bank.¹ The violence is often spectacular, as during the summer and fall siege operations in Gaza that killed more than 450 Palestinians under withering aerial bombardment, artillery barrages and two major ground invasions. But, as an unusually frank headline in the January 2007 edition of the Economist rightly stated, “It's the little things that make an occupation.”

When Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay visited Israel in January 2007, it was these “little things” that he missed – like the more than 530 fixed checkpoints and roadblocks identified in a joint UN-IDF count in the occupied West Bank. These obstacles make simple travel between neighbouring Palestinian villages often impossible, particularly when added to the more than 7,000 “flying checkpoints” that spring up at the whim of the Israeli army, anywhere and at anytime. As the Economist pointed out, “arbitrariness is one of the most crippling features of these rules.”

The checkpoints and closure regime enforced by Israel is more than inconvenient; all too often, it is deadly. As MacKay met with President Abbas in Amman, Israeli soldiers at the Hawara checkpoint outside of the West Bank city of Nablus refused the Israeli-issued permits of a patient returning from liver surgery in Palestinian East Jerusalem. The soldiers forced Tayseer Al Qaisi out of the car and ordered him to walk across the checkpoint. Al Qaisi, a father of eight, was weakened critically by the surgery and collapsed only a few hundred feet into the checkpoint. As reported by David Chater of Al Jazeera International, a Palestinian ambulance was prevented from entering the area for two hours. Mr. Al Qaisi died while waiting for help.

In meeting with top Israeli cabinet ministers, Peter MacKay did not mention the more than 2,200 hours of strict curfew enforced by tanks and gunfire over the last two years, or the more than 5,400 Palestinians who were arrested or detained on Palestinian land last year¹ – including more than half of the elected Palestinian cabinet, the Speaker of Parliament and scores of local and municipal officials. He did not ask about the Palestinian prisoner who died in Israeli custody this week, or about the hunger strike being waged by political prisoners at Ansar III in the Negev desert in response to an attack by guards with police dogs and tear gas. While MacKay gave ample notice that he would be discussing the Israeli soldier captured on the Gaza border in June, he almost surely did not bring up the 11,000 political prisoners being held by Israel, some 400 of them children.

Nor did MacKay talk about the more than 30 incursions into Palestinian cities and villages by the Israeli army in the week before he arrived, or the 14 fisherman shot off the coast of Rafah the same week as they fished in Palestinian waters. He didn't talk about the 15 Palestinians injured by Israeli forces in protests the next week, or of 10-year-old schoolgirl, Abir Aramin, who died on January 20 as she left the grounds of her school in

Anata. According to witnesses, Abir was pursued by Israeli forces as she tried to run away and was shot in the head with a stun grenade or tear gas canister at close range.

It's doubtful that MacKay raised the issue of the recent bulldozing of the entire "unrecognized" Bedouin village of Twail Abu-Jarwal in the Negev Desert. The Bedouin were displaced because they were illegally "trespassing" on the land of the Jewish state, despite the fact that their presence in the desert long predates the State of Israel. They are being forcibly relocated to urban reservations, while the Negev is prepared for settlement by the Jewish National Fund. In the "only democracy in the Middle East," at least 75,000 Bedouin live in more than 40 villages that are officially "unrecognized," where, like in Palestinian areas, building permits are denied and demolition orders are routinely carried out. The unrecognized villages have no infrastructure – no sewage, no water or electricity, and often no health or education facilities.

While Arab and Bedouin homes are destroyed, Jewish ones are being built. On the same day MacKay arrived in the region, the Olmert government announced that 44 new housing units would be built in the Maale Adumim settlement near Jerusalem, a settlement which effectively, if not absolutely, severs the West Bank in two. In fact, MacKay won't deal with the issue of settlements at all --- not the 121 illegal settlements and 100 outposts in the West Bank, nor the scores of settlements in occupied-East Jerusalem, beyond acknowledging the massive infrastructure of permanent dispossession as a "hindrance." In fact, along with their Jewish-only roads and attendant security footprints, these settlements render a Palestinian state an impossibility. Rather than fortified colonies on illegally occupied land, the Canadian government calls the settlements "facts on the ground." Not to be outdone, Stephen Harper referred to the settlement blocs as "democratic realities" in addressing a Zionist advocacy group in early 2006.²

MacKay did not address the substance of the 700 km-long barrier of sniper towers, concrete walls and deadly electronic fences snaking deep into the West Bank (80 percent of the wall is built on UN-recognized Palestinian land) in order to annex the massive settlement blocs into Israel and isolate the Palestinians into enclaves. He did not visit the machinery of settlement and dispossession created by the wall, the checkpoints, the settlements, the settler-only roads. John Dugard, South African human rights lawyer and UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory told the UN General Assembly, "In other countries the process would be described as ethnic cleansing, but political correctness [forbids] such language where Israel was concerned."

MacKay certainly did not visit Gaza, where 1.5 million people (one million of whom are refugees) are sealed off from the rest of the world, teetering on the edge of total social and humanitarian collapse because of the cruel and comprehensive sanctions regime that he so proudly vanguards. MacKay boastfully declared "not a red cent to Hamas" when the movement won the Palestinian elections early last year, but failed to see what that means on the streets of Gaza. He did not visit the EU-funded power station that was destroyed by the Israeli Air Force in June, nor did he visit the refugee camps where a million of the world's poorest people have been condemned to endless months of crippling power shortages, random blackouts and Israeli-imposed shortages of cooking and heating gas.

He didn't see the rubble left from thousands of aerial bombing raids and tens of thousands of artillery shells. He didn't see the roads shredded by tanks, or the pile of

gravel in Beit Hanun that used to be an 800-year-old mosque. He didn't see the graffiti on the demolished houses that reads "we will never forget". He didn't walk in the refugee camps as winter rains and sewage run in rivers down the unpaved streets, or visit the beachside picnic spot where the Ghaliya family was massacred in front of the eyes of seven-year-old Huda, whose horrified tears were broadcast around the world. He didn't visit the ambulance workers at the red Crescent, four of whom were killed by the Israeli army since June. Where does Canada stand on the killing of medical relief workers, Mr. MacKay?

And what about the home of the Atamns family in Beit Hanun, where blood still covers the walls and pieces of shrapnel are scattered on the floor and embedded in the cinderblock walls after an artillery barrage by the Israeli army? The IDF had used the family's home as a forward operating base in the November operation during which more than one hundred Palestinians were killed; the Atamna family was cordoned into one room and guarded by soldiers. The morning after the army left their home, the shells came. Within moments, 60 members of the extended family lay in the street, either maimed or dead. When asked what they would say to the Canadian government, defending Israel's atrocities as it does time and again, Iyad Atamna said: "We don't want your money or your political support, just come here one day before you speak about justice."

1) <http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/OCHA_oPt_Pot_MonthlyTablesDec06.pdf>

2) <<http://www.cija.ca/eng/Harperfullenglish.pdf>>

The Medium Is The Message

Vancouver is a one news town. Both the daily paid-circulation newspapers, most of the weekly papers, the market-leading television newscast, as well as major internet portals are all owned by the one company, CanWest Global. For good measure they also own 30% of the free daily, Metro and the widely distributed *National Post*. Canadian Press estimates Canwest's control of the Vancouver news market at 70 percent.ⁱ

CanWest's corporate motto is "Inform, Enlighten, Entertain" – to which many journalists would add "and not necessarily in that order." Indeed, their newspaper strategy is similar to their financially successful television model – resell ubiquitous U.S. "Product" such as Survivor and Fear Factor.

In order to service the debt from its \$3.2 billion takeover of the Southam/Hollinger newspaper chain, CanWest has aggressively slashed costs, especially in international news. They reduced the number of foreign bureaus from eight under Southam ownership to just two – Washington and London. As a result, the vast majority of the international news in CanWest papers comes from wire services, particularly U.S.-based Associated Press (more on that later).

Why should we care if one company and its majority owners, the Asper family, control our news? Obviously, this publication exists because we answer that question affirmatively. Peace and justice in the Middle East is one of the most critical issues in the world today. The Aspers have very particular views about the Middle East and are not shy about imposing on their media empire from above.

In an interview with the *Jerasulem Post* in August 2003ⁱⁱ, CanWest mogul Israel Asper said, "in all our newspapers, including the National Post, we have a very pro-Israel position... we are the strongest supporter of Israel in Canada."

When asked by the interviewer, "Do you think your policy has an effect on government action or public opinion?", Asper replied: "I'm told it has. Certainly, we've raised issues that no other media has, and obviously we are strongly, continually making the case on banning [fundraising for] Hizbullah."

Israel Asper also gave a speech in Montreal in 2002, entitled "Dishonest Reporting – Media Bias Against Israel". In this speech so filled with unintentional irony that it is liable to rust, Asper said: "There are accepted rules regarding the honour and obligation of media in a democratic society. The most elementary of these are:: The responsibility to report everything that the public needs to know about a given matter and not just selectively, so that the public may be fully informed; to report everything honestly, and not slant the news, biased toward their own

ⁱ "Senators Let Big Media Off Hook", TheTyee.ca, June, 2006.

ⁱⁱ "Mogul With A Message", Jerasulem Post online edition, August 15, 2003.
<http://www.yourmedia.ca/modules/canwest/overview/030815_iasper_JP_ivw.html>

point of view....”ⁱⁱⁱ Montreal, October 30, 2002,
<http://www.yourmedia.ca/modules/canwest/bosspeak/021030_Iasper__bonds.pdf>

Asper sees anti-Israel bias everywhere in the Canadian media and blames it on “too many of the journalists are lazy, or sloppy, or stupid. They are ignorant of the history of the subject... Others are, plain and simple, biased, or anti-Semitic, or are taken captive by a simplistic ideology...” In a chilling message to his employees, Asper said “if any CanWest media outlets happen to fall within this indictment, then they, too, should take notice that I will always do all in my power to stamp out dishonest reporting, and biased reporting on any subject.” Presumably pro-Israel bias is just “honest reporting.”

“In all our newspapers...we have a very pro-Israel position” — Israel Asper

Asper the Younger, current CEO Leonard, gave a speech in Winnipeg in 2003 that he also had published in his *National Post* in case any of his employees has missed the point.^{iv} He echoes his father's attacks on his own employees, saying “journalist's bias is the result of laziness” and “many news journalists are either doctrinaire socialists or hold political views left of centre.”

But Leonard's anti-Arab racism overflows when he talks about another reason he thinks Israel gets a bad rap in the media: “Palestinians can get a mob together for a video shoot in five minutes. It is part of the strategy. There are no Israeli mobs. There are no staged funerals. It is too civilized a society for this war.”

In 2001, CanWest ordered all its dailies to begin running corporate-crafted “national editorials.” One of the first national editorials followed an attack on Israel by Palestinians, arguing that Canada should back Israel no matter how it responds, “without the usual hand-wringing criticism about ‘excessive force’.” Papers in the Southam chain were told to carry neither columns nor letters to the editor taking issue with the editorial, according to journalists at two Southam newspapers, who said the order came via a conference call.^v

Southam/CanWest editor-in-chief Murdoch Davis wrote the national editorials. When he was asked by CBC's “As It Happens” whether any of CanWest's papers would be permitted to buck the party line on Israel, Davis replied: “No. It is clearly the intent that the newspapers will speak with one voice on certain issues of overarching national or international importance.”⁷

CanWest Executive Davis asper went a little over the top in a 2002 speech he gave in Oakville, Ontario.⁶ He called accusations of censorship “part of a vacuous strategy of professional

ⁱⁱⁱ “Dishonest reporting – Media Bias Against Israel”, speech to Israel Bonds Gala Dinner,

^{iv} “Media Bias And The Middle East”, *National Post*, October 1, 2003.

^v “A Chill In Canada”, *Columbia Journalism Review*,
<<http://cjrarchives.org/issues/2002/2/canada-moore.asp>>

whiners.” He also said those who disagreed with Canwest policy included “the bleeding hearts of the journalist community”, “feeble turf-protecting editors living in ivory towers”, “rabble-rousing union bosses”, and “riff-raff...motivated by selfishness.”

This is in line with his father’s view of freedom of speech that “when you own a newspaper, the inmates of the asylum don’t run the asylum.” 2

In 2004, CanWest were caught with their hand in the semantic cookie jar. Reuters news agency complained that CanWest newspapers had been altering words and phrases in stories dealing with the war in Iraq and the Israeli–Palestinian conflict – inappropriately inserting the word “terrorist” into newswire copy. The global managing editor for Reuters, David Schlesinger, called such changes unacceptable. He said CanWest had crossed a line from editing for style to editing the substance and slant of news from the Middle East, thereby changing the meaning of those stories. 8

The *Ottawa Citizen*, another CanWest paper, also admitted to making erroneous changes in a story about Iraq from another leading news agency. The *Citizen* inserted the word “terrorist” seven times into an Associated Press story on the Iraqi city of Fallujah, where Iraqi insurgents had been battling U.S.-led occupation forces. *Ottawa Citizen* editor Scott Anderson conceded fighters in Fallujah were not terrorists, but said CanWest has a policy of renaming some groups as terrorists.

Speaking of Associated Press (AP), which is a major international news source for Canwest, papers including the *Vancouver Sun*, a recent study has shown that even un-Asperized AP stories are distortedly pro-Israel. Researchers from “If American News” (IAN) analyzed all AP wire service stories filed from Israel or Palestine during 2004. They counted the number of deaths of Palestinians and Israelis reported by AP and compared them to actual casualty figures from the widely respected Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem. ^{vi}

The IAN study found that AP consistently underreported Palestinian deaths compared to Israeli deaths in the headlines or first paragraphs. This trend was particularly pronounced with children deaths.

Nine Israeli children’s deaths were reported in the headlines or first paragraphs of AP articles on the Israel/Palestine conflict in 2004, when 8 had actually occurred (some were mentioned more than once). During the same period only 27 out of 179 Palestinian children’s deaths were reported. (Children are defined by international law as those who are 17 or younger.)

That is, AP reporting gave the impression that Palestinian children were being killed at a rate double that of Israeli children when in fact Palestinian children were being killed at more than 22 times the rate of Israeli children.

This kind of bias shapes the way we understand the events in the Middle East. We gain the

^{vi} “Deadly Distortion: AP Coverage Of Israeli And Palestinian Deaths”,
<<http://ifamericansknew.org/media/>>

impression that the conflict between Palestinians is much more balanced than is the case. The suffering of the Palestinians, especially children, becomes invisible.

But we're going to give Israel Asper the last word. In his speech on Dishonest Reporting, he said "I strongly suggest that you should establish...honest reporting response groups to call to account offending dishonest media">

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

Welcome to the Palestine Media Collective edition of the *Vancouver Sun*.

Who Produced This Vancouver Sun Parody And Why?

We are the Palestine Media Collective, a group of direct action media critics concerned about mainstream media coverage of the situation in the Middle East.

We created this parody edition on the 40th anniversary of Israel's illegal occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan to point out the extreme anti-Palestinian bias of CanWest publications, particularly the *Vancouver Sun*.

You can contact us at palestinemedia@gmail.com and you can download a PDF version of this publication to impress (or fool) your friends at vancouver.sun.7p.com.

Some Alternative Media Sources On The Middle East

electronicintifada.net — Electronic Intifada
stopthewall.org — Stop The Wall Campaign
btselem.org/English — Israeli Human Rights Group
pchgaza.org — Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
www.ochaopt.org — UN Office For Humanitarian Affairs
caiaweb.org/indigoboycott — Boycott Chapters / Indigo
yournews.ca — Media Concentration In Canada
zmag.org/meastwatch/meastwat.cfm — Middle East Watch
ifamericansknew.org — Middle East Media Analysis

ENOUGH!

**END ISRAEL'S
BRUTAL APARTHEID
+ OCCUPATION OF
PALESTINE**

FREE PALESTINE!

Chapters !ndigo Coles

PARTNERS IN APARTHEID

MERCENARIES WITHOUT BORDERS **MERCENNAIRES SANS FRONTIERES**

From the Desk of
Heather Reisman

I am Proud to announce A new partnership between Chapters/Indigo/Coles and Mercenaries without Borders, a very important charity that helps foreign mercenaries feel at home where ever they fight or kill.

The Chapters/Indigo/Mercenaries without Borders initiative will focus on supporting foreign mercenaries in the Israeli occupation forces working with local NGO Heseq. For too long mercenaries have been denigrated and looked upon as pariahs. They are just human beings who drive the tanks and bulldozers, fly the helicopters and jet fighters and fire the US-funded weapons that make the occupation work.

Just because they volunteer to get paid for doing their part, society treats these valiant heroes as outcasts. This discrimination against mercenaries is one of society's dirty secrets – an antiquated attitude by elitist ivory tower types that killing people for money is somehow beyond the pale and uncivilized.

After all they do the same important work as conscripted soldiers in Israel: assassinating anyone who is a suspected militant, disrupting terrorist infrastructure by humiliating civilians at checkpoints, teaching young kids the valuable life lesson that throwing stones can help you get a bullet in the head.

That's why we are thrilled to support Mercenaries Without Borders and it's vital mission to make these wonderful soldiers feel part of their community. By shopping at Chapters you'll be doing your part to help.

We're having a "Mercenaries without Borders Day" at our Robson Street Store in Vancouver on Jun 9th from 1pm to 5pm. Please come out and show you care.

Thank you!
Heather Reisman, CEO

Chapters !ndigo Coles