

Interreligious Affairs Department, August 2008

David Rosen

Having concluded in the first week of August the very successful US Christian leadership Institute (held in Jerusalem together with the Shalom Hartman Institute) Rabbi Gary Greenebaum was away on vacation for the rest of the month.

As I did not travel abroad in August, this report offers me an opportunity to provide some insight into events of note in my regular activity when I am in Israel (and on which I do not normally report, as I usually focus on the major international interfaith events in which I am involved) :-

3rd

- Interviewed by the Christian Embassy (the Jerusalem center for Evangelical support of Israel) for syndicated US Evangelical radio stations, on the Saudi Arabian Interreligious conference and on Jewish-Evangelical relations.
- Meeting with Ambassador Shmuel Hadas, to plan the Emerging Leadership conference of the ILC (IJCIC-Vatican) to be held in Italy next June .
- Briefing provided to Yoav Stern of Haaretz ,at his request , on the Saudi Arabian conference.

4th

- All day planning meeting in Ussefiya, Mt. Carmel, of the Steering Committee of the newly formed Israeli Council of Religious Leaders (as opposed to the Council of the religious Institutions of the Holy land which involves the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the Palestinian Muslim and Christian leadership, this Council is made up of the official leaders of the recognized religious communities in Israel) for an event to be held in November.

5th

- Meeting with President Peres' advisor on Interfaith Relations.
- Address a special educational seminar for Israeli resident SLA (South Lebanon Army) families, on Jewish-Christian relations.

6th

- Brief "Eagles Wings" US "young diplomats" mission on the Saudi Arabian Conference.

7th

- Meeting with the Zvil-Mezbuz Rebbe, Rabbi Korff, to brief him at his request on the Saudi Arabian conference.
- Meeting with Cardinal McCarrick, Ambassador Munzer Fatfat and David Austin (aide to Ambassador Tony Hall), to discuss the Council of the Religious Institutions of the Holy Land.

11th

- Participate in meeting of the abovementioned delegation with Chief Rabbis Amar and Metzger.
- Meet with Ambassador Bruce Kashdan to discuss interfaith developments in the Arab world and plan for my visit to Dubai to attend the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Summit in November.

13th

- Record video presentation to the Global Sikh Conference being held in India to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Guru Granth.
- Record interview for the Alliance of Civilizations' global resources on Interreligious relations and on the role of Religion in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

14th

- Address Project Interchange mission of DC directors of religious and civil advocacy offices.

17th

- Receive the Mayor of Gibraltar, Solomon Levy, to discuss Gibraltarian Jewish involvement in the ME Council of Religions for Peace.

18th

- Meet with Ambassador Neville Lamdan to discuss Israel-Vatican and Jewish-Vatican issues
- Recieve Dr. Enrico Molinari of Rome to discuss the subject of the Holy Sites.

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20th

- Discussion at the Israeli ministry of Foreign Affairs with Ambassador Bahij Mansour on the MFO's interest in collaborating with AJC in hosting missions to Israel of religious leaders/personalities.
- Address Dutch Christian development leaders on Interreligious issues in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

21st

- Travel to Haifa University to meet with the President Professor Aharon Ben Zeev and Professor Ofra Mayzeless Dean of Education, at their request; to discuss their plans for a Center for the Study of Spirituality.

25th

- Speak to group of Latino/Hispanic evangelicals brought to Israel by Randall Brown of the LA Chapter.

26th

- Speak at the Sulha interfaith gathering, Latrun.

27th

- Brief Ambassador Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff, Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), at his request, on the situation regarding the Vatican archives covering the World War II period.

28th

- Speak at the Sulha interfaith gathering.

31st

- Tel Aviv, speak (on the Saudi conference and other interfaith initiatives in the Arab world) at the Stephen Roth Institute's Ninth Biennial International Seminar.

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