

Report – September 2007

At the beginning of the month I was in Australia on Hayman Island where I had been invited to attend the Australian Leadership Retreat (the Australian Davos Connection) that brought together captains of industry and business; national and regional political leaders ; and prominent figures in the arts and sciences from Australia and the Pacific region in particular , but also from the world at large. I featured on two panels – one on Science and Spirituality and another on the Global Implications of Iran's Nuclear Program. While in Australia I serviced AJC's Australian partner, AIJAC, speaking at public and parlour meetings; giving media interviews and addressing an interfaith meeting at the Sydney Parliament.

From Australia I went on to Washington D.C. where I spoke at a meeting jointly organized by the DC Chapter and Project Interchange, focusing primarily on the historic mission of Indian Muslim leaders that has taken place a few weeks' earlier.

From DC I went on to New York for the AJC Board of Governors and Commission meetings. Prior to these, I presided over an IJCIC meeting and on September 9, I traveled with Mr. Bawa jain, Secretary General of the World Council of Religious Leaders (WCORL) to Saylorsburg Pennsylvania to meet Swami Dayananda Saraswati at his US headquarters, the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam. Swami Dayananda is the leading Hindu religious personality who founded the All-India Dharma Acharya Sabha which is the partner with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel in the historic Hindu-Jewish dialog that had its first summit at the beginning of the year in Delhi India, organized by the WCORL and held in close cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main purpose of my visit with Dayananda was to prepare for the next (reciprocal) bilateral meeting scheduled to be held in Jerusalem next February. Coincidentally I has been invited for that same Sunday to address a festive gathering of the Hindu Swaminarayan movement's chapter in New Jersey and so I was able to address that event on my way back to New York.

Between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur I was the guest at Melk Abbey near Vienna Austria of the Waldzell Meeting – a global dialog for inspiration, where I spoke on the main panel with the Dalia Lama and Dr Ahmad Al Tayyeb, the President of the leading Islamic University, Al Azhar, in Cairo.