Press Review N° 144 - By Gilberte Jacaret

Welcome remarks by President Peres to Pope Benedict XVI at Ben-Gurion Airport - “ I see your visit here, to the Holy Land, as an important spiritual mission of the highest order: a mission of peace. A mission of planting seeds of tolerance and and uprooting the weeds of fanaticism. I appreciate your stances and your actions to bring down the level of violence and hatred in the world. I am certain that this will be a continuation of the dialogue between Judaism and Christianity in the spirit of the Prophets. “

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Post, May 14 - Pope's subdued style lends lackluster finish to visit - As Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Israel draws to an end, experts cannot
help but compare his subdued style to that of his predecessor, John Paul II, who was seen as a charismatic man of gestures.

"It's like the difference between a Litvak and Galician Jew," Rabbi Ron Kronish, director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council In Israel, said on Thursday.

"Benedict XVI is ponderously philosophically and comes off as cold and distant, while John Paul II was warm and expressive and had the ability to convey feeling. I'd say that the difference between the two is less to do with substance and more to do with delivery. John Paul II was a man of gestures," said Kronish.

The previous pope's visit in 2000 was widely regarded as a landmark event in relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. But many feel Benedict leaves Israel with the impression that more could have been said and done to assuage suspicions regarding the conservative pope's German background, his position on the Holocaust and his view of the Jewish people. …

"John Paul was a papal pop star who knew how to make a presence on stage, while Benedict is subdued and consciously nuanced," said Kronish….

IsraelValley, May 12 - By Mati Ben Avraham - The incident occurred at the inter-religious meeting at Notre Dame Center in Jerusalem, bringing dignitaries Jews, Christians and Muslims, in a spirit of openness and conciliation. After speeches by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Pope, Sheikh Tayssir al-Tamimi, Chief Palestinian Islamic Courts, seized the microphone to engage in a violent anti-Israeli diatribe, calling the Holy Father " to pressure the Israeli government to cease its aggression against the Palestinian people. "

Following this, Benedict XVI, clearly shocked, stood up and left the room. "In a meeting dedicated to dialogue, such intervention is the very antithesis of what a dialogue should be," said Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Press Office of the Holy See.

Hosted by the President of the State Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu when he arrived late morning at the international airport Ben-Gurion, Benoit XVI, in his speech expressed his concern at the upsurge of anti-Semitic acts, stressing that: "Unfortunately, anti-Semitism continues to increase its face repugnant in many parts of the world. This is totally unacceptable. " The spiritual leader of Catholic Christianity has also called on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to "... explore ways able to reach a just solution to the difficulties, so that both peoples can live in peace each in its own homeland, in secure and internationally recognized borders. "

In the afternoon, the Pope was received by Shimon Peres at the residence of the Heads of State before going to Yad Vashem, the memorial dedicated to the memory of six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis. After prostrate in the Crypt of Remembrance, before the names of the extermination camps, concentration, "That the names of these victims do not die! That their suffering is never denied, discredited or forgotten! And that all people of good will remain attentive to eradicate from the heart of man which can lead to such tragedies, "he declared.

About a dull thought by the Israelis present, most of the survivors of the camps, who had hoped for stronger words from the Pope, and even a request for forgiveness for the role played by the message of the Church over the centuries in the cocktail of hatred developed by Nazism. The chairman of Yad Vashem, Israel Lau, a survivor of the Buchenwald camp, summed up this feeling by expressing reservations about the speech, deploring that the Pope "... not" specifically mentioned the Nazis "and spoke of Jews killed "instead of" killed "without specifying the number of six million. "

Today, Benedict XVI will visit the Wailing Wall and the Esplanade of the Mosques. He will celebrate a Mass Public in the valley of Kidron
.

Abdullah Tells Netanyahu in Amman : Accept PA State Immediately - Arutz Sheva, May 14., y Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu - Jordan’s King Abdullah II,
hosting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in a previously unannounced visit Thursday morning, demanded that he “immediately declare his commitment to a two-state solution, [declare] acceptance of the Arab peace initiative and to take necessary steps to move forward toward a solution”...

EGYPT

Jerusalem Post, May 15 - Egypt arrests 33 Muslim Brotherhood members - Police arrested 33 members of Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood over
the past two days, including several senior officials, police said
Friday.

The arrests were the latest chapter in the government's long-running crackdown against Egypt's largest opposition group.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Jerusalem Post, May 5 - The new theme of anti-Israel cartoons - The Muslim and Arab media are manipulating the swine flu epidemic to
demonize Israel and its leaders, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
charged on Monday.

The ADL, which monitors global anti-Semitism, accused large-circulation daily newspapers such as Al Watan in Qatar and Al-Quds al-Arabi in the UK of "exploiting" the epidemic to provoke anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attitudes.

An Al Watan cartoon cited by the ADL had a caption saying: "The World Health Organization is warning about a world-wide epidemic - the swine flu," and showed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with a pig snout.

"One theme of the anti-Israel cartoons related to the swine flu is ironically picturing Israeli leaders with faces of pigs, reflecting the disdain for the pig in Islamic culture," the ADL said in a press release issued Monday.

"Once again, the Arab press is not just content with reporting the news of a serious and potentially deadly global epidemic," said ADL National Director Abraham Foxman. "They are exploiting the swine flu epidemic in an effort to rile up anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment in the Arab street. And they are using the most powerful tool in their arsenal - the visual, the cartoon - to incite hatred for the Jewish state and its people."

Last week, the ADL condemned media commentators and anti-immigration groups for blaming the outbreak of swine flu in the US on illegal immigrants. "Such inflammatory and hateful rhetoric against Mexicans in particular and Latinos in general should be condemned as unacceptable and un-American," said Foxman.

European Jewish Press, April 22 - Anti-Semitism rose in major Western countries

throughout 2008, particularly in Germany, Switzerland and Canada, and spiked dramatically in early 2009, according to a survey - The new survey findings regarding the state of anti-Semitism worldwide were released this week jointly by the European Jewish Congress and the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University, while the Durban II anti-racism conference convened in Geneva and Jews around the world commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day.

The survey also found that without any outside triggers, anti-Semitism remained at high levels even before the onset of the economic crisis or the Israel operation in Gaza.

“What’s more, despite efforts at Holocaust education around the world, anti-Semitic perceptions prevailed and the exploitation of Holocaust metaphors and symbols of the Nazi era rose steadily,” the European Jewish Congress said. .

The survey also found that synagogues, cemeteries and Holocaust memorials were desecrated in 2008 on a weekly, sometimes even daily basis in many European countries.

After dozens of violent incidents, Jewish children increasingly fear being attacked on their way to school or synagogue and need special protection in most European capitals, the survey shows.

The survey's authors estimate that there were close to 1,000 manifestations of all types of anti-Semitism throughout the world in January 2009. The start of the Israeli operation in Gaza on December brought into 2009 a wave of anti-Semitic manifestations throughout the world, the report said.

The economic crisis that began in the summer also triggered anti-Jewish reactions, most notably in Eastern Europe and the Arab world.

“The survey results underscore the dangers of rising global anti-Semitism and the cynical use of Jews and the Jewish State as convenient scapegoats for the world’s ills,” commented Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, an umbrella organization for Jewish communities in Europe.

He added: “The Durban II conference is a snapshot of the world at large. It is taking place against the backdrop of a global rise in anti-Semitism fueled by the economic crisis. The hate expressed towards Israel and the Jewish people is stoking the embers of long-simmering anti-Semitic canards and Jewish blood libel.”

European Jewish Press,May 15 - Jewish cemetery desecrated in Oslo - AFP-EJP - May 15-The Jewish section of an Oslo cemetery was
desecrated with swastikas and graffiti painted on headstones, Norwegian media reported on Friday.

Television images showed black swastikas and the phrase "The War is Not Over" painted on a number of tombstones at the Sofienberg cemetery, which was used between 1869 and 1917 and is considered a heritage site.

The main organisation representing Norway's Jewish community said it planned to file a police complaint.

Some 1,300 Jews live in the Scandinavian country out of a total population of around 4.8 million.

In March, Norwegian Jewish leaders reported a dramatic increase in anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment in the country following the Israeli operation in Gaza, accusing the Norwegian media and intellectual elite.

During the war, Olso, the Norwegian capital, was fraught with violent anti-Israel demonstrations. Numerous government officials decried Israel’s actions in Gaza and during a march against the operation shouts of "Death to the Jews" were heard.

UNITED KINGDOM

Jerusalem Post May 15 - UK scandal puts our MKs' spending abuses in the shade - The mother of all democracies is embroiled in an escalating
scandal over the misuse by members of Parliament of taxpayers' money to subsidize outrageous lifestyles and multiple homes.

Over the past week, a series of revelations have left many servants of the British crown looking as corrupt as some in the Third World, and made Israeli MKs seem squeaky clean by comparison.

MPs are paid an annual salary of around £63,300 ($96,000). They also receive generous allowances for the costs of running an office, having homes both near Parliament and in their constituencies, and traveling between both.

It is this allowance system that has been widely exploited.

WHEN CHINA SETTLES IN AUSTRALIA

The Economist, April 30 - Australia's Chinese entanglement - For all China’s commercial charms, Australia still looks to America as Asia’s sheriff - No country in Asia or the Pacific is more clearly a beneficiary of China’s industrial revolution than is Australia. Its coal fuels the power stations that keep that revolution churning. Its iron is in the steel for every other new building. Chinese demand for Australia’s mineral riches drove the long boom that ended last year. It still provides Australia’s best hope of avoiding the worst of the slump that has followed.

Last November, when China announced its first big, 4 trillion yuan ($586 billion) economic stimulus in response to the downturn, Kevin Rudd, Australia’s prime minister, was among the foreigners cheering loudest, calling it “very good news”. The sense of relief was understandable. Taking goods and services together, China is now Australia’s biggest trading partner. The slump may slow this trend down, but not change its direction.

Yet on a recent visit to Canberra, a capital whose eerily empty streets and subterranean parliament suggest a Pyongyang without the dystopia, Banyan found politicians and policy pundits in a quandary over how to handle both China and the recent upwelling of popular Australian antipathy towards the Chinese government. For all that China is Australia’s second-biggest export market, with huge potential for growth, it is also a dictatorial power whose policies anger many Australians.

Moreover, its commercial expansionism is accompanied by growing military strength. Defence strategists, who are paid to think the worst, now see the biggest potential threat to Australian security not as an unstoppable influx of Indonesian boat people, but as China.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

Jewish-Arab duo in Eurovision bid - A Jewish-Arab duo representing Israel are set to take part in the final of the Eurovision Song Contest in the Russian capital, Moscow, on Saturday.

Achinoam Nini - known as Noa - and Mira Awad made it to the final after defeating 17 other acts on Tuesday night with "There must be another way".

Mira Awad is the first Arab to represent Israel at the contest, which attracts an audience of millions.

But she has faced criticism from some Israeli-Arab artists for going.

The song, which includes lyrics in Hebrew and Arabic and English, is billed as a plea for peace.

Israel's Arab citizens, who are a big minority, often complain that they face discrimination in Israel.

Mira says she regards her participation as a way of making the community more visible.