

## Speech Given at University of Florida (Gainesville)<sup>1</sup>

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**I**n the very beginning of Breshit (Genesis) it says: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth." Rashi the 12th century Jewish sage writes: "*Why does the Torah start with the creation—instead of the first commandment given to the Jewish People?* Because if the nations of the world ever accuse the Jews of stealing the Land of Israel, the Jews will be able to respond to the nations of the world that the entire world belongs to God; He created it— and He choose to give the Land of Israel to the Jewish People."

Friends, the U.S. "Road Map" for a Palestinian Arab state is taking shape. Israel National News said just yesterday that the Israeli government is concerned. They say that the State Department has made "far-reaching" changes in the plan, which even beforehand were unacceptable to Israel. One Israeli newspaper said "The Bush Administration has delivered a sharp blow to Ariel Sharon's government," and termed Bush's position as "anti-Israeli."

The backbone of the plan is the formation of an Arab state inside Yesha (Judea and Samaria), the heart of the Jewish homeland. This would be like placing an Arab state inside the middle of Florida, from Jacksonville to Melbourne. And Tampa to Tallahassee.

The Road Map dictates that an independent Palestinian Arab state will be established in the second half of 2003, or between 7-13 months from now. In blatant opposition to Israel's stance, the U.S. plan calls for international supervision in Judea and Samaria by the Europe, Russia, the United Nations, and the U.S.

The new U.S. plan demands that Israel take down all construction in Yesha. In return, the Arabs must do nothing, at least with regard to terrorism. They are not required to stop their terrorism, murder, or incitement thereof in the initial stages. What is actually occurring, is the Muslim terrorists are being rewarded for killing Jews.

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<sup>1</sup> I was invited to speak at a Hillel function on campus. Many speakers were there, including a dignitary from Israel.

After the creation of this United States backed Arab state, Israel will have to go in and uproot the Jews, some who have lived in Judea and Samaria for decades. They will use trucks, bulldozers, police, soldiers, and brute strength to remove some 300,000 Jews. These Jews are living in modern homes and sub-divisions like these right here in Florida. Soon to be uprooted; Economic destruction will take place in Israel, and the Arabs will walk right into tens of thousands of Jewish homes, hospitals, hotels, schools, factories, and business the Jews are forced to abandon. Settlements are not a few people sitting around a camp fire—they are modern communities no different than here in Gainesville, Ocala, or Orlando. Israel won Judea and Samaria (our ancestral home land) fair and square in a war, just as the United States won New Mexico and Arizona from Mexico.

And though we love the United States, its not just the U.S., but now the European Union who unfairly seem to support those who seek the destruction of the Jewish people. Yesterday the President of France stated the EU would be giving 4.3 billion dollars to the government of Lebanon—the very country which allows missiles to be launched into Israel almost on a weekly basis!

Rabbi Meir Simcha HaCohen, The Ohr Somayach once said:

"If a Jew will forget his origin and true identity and consider himself a full-fledged citizen of the country of his exile... if he thinks that Berlin is Jerusalem...then a raging storm will uproot him by his trunk... the tempest will arise and spread it's roaring waves, and swallow, and destroy and spread forth without pity."

Remember, we are here today to talk about the State of Israel. Israel is the only one place for a Jew. Unfortunately, this one place was not available during the Holocaust. Today it is open and waiting for us all. As Ariel Sharon said, "Israel is the only place on earth the Jews have the right—and the might—to defend themselves."

AMERICAN JEWS, I AM GIVING YOU A WARNING TODAY: America's interests and Israeli interests are **colliding**. When President Bush told Israel, "America's war comes first," American Jews were put in a most awkward position. Since the September 11 attacks, some

American military officials have perceived a new sense of mistrust and antagonism, their Jewishness being the only apparent reason.

If America should decide, in conjunction with the U.N., to impose a military solution on the Palestinian question, every American Jew will be a target of the infamous dual-loyalty question: "Whose side are you on?" As the heat turns up, we need to take a step back and look at the big picture of where this may be heading. If this was 1933 – with some warning signs, but no concrete trouble yet -- what would you do?

Please remember the story of the Jewish man who told his fellow Jews in the 1930's "EUROPE IS ON FIRE, JEWS GET OUT NOW." And they laughed at him. Laughed because Jews were at the very top of society, very comfortable, even more so than we here in America! And look what happened to the Jews in Europe a few year later, 6 and a half million murdered.

For Jews, it's an unfortunate but familiar story. From Mitsrahim to Babylon, from Iberia to Berlin, the pattern repeats: Jews establish themselves in a country, flourish, and then begin to assimilate or be targeted. Never was this was more profoundly expressed than by the Jews of early 20th century Germany, who called Berlin "the New Jerusalem."

Gainesville is not Gilo, Jersey is not Jerusalem and Monsey is not the Garden of Eden. America—though we all love it—is not the land of our forefathers, Erets Yisrael !

God wants the Jewish people to be a light unto the nations, to teach, by example, what it means to live by the highest standards in all areas of life. That means being different, unique -- in our customs, diet, and view of the world—this is the Jewish way. Remember: "For a Jew living outside of Israel, things may prosper for a few decades, but it is never permanent." We also have the threat of those non-Jewish groups which will lie to you in order to steal your souls—to convert you. Remember, they are a two-sided blade. They will pervert the Torah for their own gain—which is you and your soul. Be strong, learn the truth, and learn the religion of your father's father. Be a proud Jew!

A few months ago Israeli Prime Minister Sharon Warned Jews who live Outside of Israel: **The Good Life Can Disappear In A Moment!** Sharon said: "In addition to the military campaign that we face, we are also engaged in a very difficult diplomatic campaign, to which we must stand up - and we expect you to stand with us." It's not just our fight. Whatever happens here in Israel will influence the fate of the Jews all around the world. If Israel, Heaven forbid, becomes weakened, don't expect even for a minute that you will be able to live the lives that you are living now. It will disappear in the blink of an eye.

*In the memory of an illustrious rabbi and Jewish leader, I close with the following:<sup>2</sup>*

Young Jews...You were part of a people that were trampled upon, spat upon, burned, drowned, hanged, shot, gassed and buried alive. And we continued to live in spite of all of this! You were part of a people that did not fall prey to the moral disasters of crime, immorality, and cultural anarchy—but created geniuses and men of morality and ethics.

While others beat their wives, Jews respected them. While others rolled in the gutter drunk with whiskey, the Jew raised his Kiddish cup to God. While others dabbled in Inquisitions and crusades, the Jew bent over his Talmud and created warmth, kindness, and scholarship. While others worshiped idols, the Jew embraced the One God. In a sense, you have no right to abandon Israel—because you owe an obligation to your unborn child. This child will need to remain with his people—the people of his grandparents and great-grandparents and ancestors.

Young Jews come home! Return to your people and their destiny. It is beautiful. You are young and for you, return is simple. And know that your life can only be lived in one place. Home. The Land of Israel. It is a large land. Extending from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, from Hermon through Sinai to Sharm-al-Shek. It stands, capable of absorbing millions, many millions of its sons and daughters who have not yet come. It is the land where one cannot move without colliding with the Jewish past. This is the land where Abraham walked and Isaac, and Jacob traveled; where David and Saul fought the enemy

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<sup>2</sup> *These were the words of Rabbi Meir Kahane of Blessed Memory*

and Deborah and Samson smote the foe; where the Prophets raised their eyes unto heavens and spoke to the people; where the Maccabees preserved Judaism with the sword and where the Sanhedrin and Rabbi Ben Zakkai continued it with the book; where Bar Kochba died and where his children will return. Here is Erets Yisrael; here is your home.

What a glorious challenge you have been given! The gauntlet has been thrown down before you, and you must climb the heights of greatness! Aliyah, going up to the land, this is the task at hand. Leave behind the dust of Exile, the terrible fate that awaits us, our enemies of the Diaspora who thirst of our blood and plan yet another Auschwitz. Make your plans to leave the graveyards of Galut and live in our own land-free, a majority, alive. Guarantee the preservation of your children and children's children. Watch them grow tall and tanned, strong and proud, secure and sovereign. Above all, Aliyah will assure that the liquidation of the Exile-which is underway regardless of our wishes-will be completed with joy rather than with tragedy, with return rather than with disappearance.

These are the principles; now go and study them. Study, learn Torah, for only Torah and Torah knowledge can make you the kind of Jew that you must be. When you find the Torah, go drink deeply from its waters.

Jewish happiness is looking at the teeming streets of Zion...Jewish happiness is standing on Israeli Independence Day in the streets of Jerusalem and being comforted...Jewish - real Jewish - is beautiful.

My final words are those given to us by Hashem. God tells us in Dvarim (Deuteronomy) 4:1  
*"Now Israel, listen to the rules and laws that I am teaching you to do, so that you will remain alive and come to occupy the land that God, Lord of your fathers, is giving you."* AM YISRAEL  
HAI – THE JEWISH PEOPLE LIVE!

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