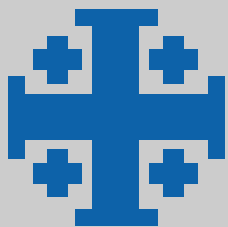




The Franciscan Seal

The seal represents The Franciscan Charism which has always been identified with Christ crucified. Its guidance comes from the Holy Spirit represented by the dove of peace.

The specific cross, commonly called the Crusaders Cross, was adopted by the early Franciscans who worked in the Holy land and established through grace and guidance, an ever-present service and guardianship to these hallowed grounds and all its people.



The Holy Land Foundation has been created to raise funds to continue pursuing Christian ecumenical, cultural and spiritual activities. Service programs include providing employment opportunities, subsidized housing, medical care and academic scholarships, while preserving, protecting and restoring the Holy Sites of Christianity.

The Holy Land

NUMBER EIGHT

FOUNDATION

We beseech you to help save the Holy Land.

Washington, DC Hosts Third Annual Fundraiser

The beautiful grounds of the Franciscan Monastery, Commissariat of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C., provided the setting for the third annual Holy Land Foundation Dinner on Saturday, May 6, 2000.

Holy Mass was celebrated by The Most Reverend John J. Nevins, DD, Bishop of Venice, Florida in the Church of Mt. St. Sepulchre, a replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. In attendance were most of the invited guests including His Paternity The Very Reverend Giovanni Battistelli, OFM, Custos of the Holy Land, The Rev. Abdel-Masih Fayez-Fahim, OFM, Comptroller of the Franciscan Custody in Jerusalem, The Reverend Peter F. Vasko, OFM, President of The Holy Land Foundation, Bro. Fabian Adkins, OFM, Guardian, Bro. Callistus Welch, OFM, Commissary, and Friars of the Franciscan Monastery.

After Mass, the formal black-tie dinner was attended by 130 people including HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, H.E. Peter Moser, Ambassador of Austria to the United States, Dr. Ibriham Oweiss former Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, and H.E. Khalil E. Jahshan of the American Committee on Jerusalem. Speaker of the evening was The Honorable Afif Safieh, Palestinian General Delegate to The United Kingdom and The Holy See. His remarks addressed the eco-



Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, OFM, Denise M. Scalzo, Vice President of The Holy Land Foundation, and Bishop John J. Nevins, DD.



Above: Gen. & Mrs. Guntmar Heck, Military Attaché of Austria, Msgr. M. Bransfield, Dir. of Immaculate Conception Shrine, Fr. Custos, HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, Bishop Nevins, Mr. & Mrs. William Guyol of St. Louis, Mr. Anthony Sansone of St. Louis, His Excellency Afif Safieh, and Fr. Abdel-Masih Fayez-Fahim.



At right: His Excellency Afif Safieh addressing the guests of the foundation dinner.

(Continued on page 7)

HEADQUARTERS

The Holy Land Foundation
1400 Quincy Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 260-5120

LETTER FROM THE CUSTOS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

United together in prayer, as we continue to receive the great graces during this Jubilee Year throughout the world, we here in Jerusalem ask in a special way that the Sacrosanct Trinity guide and bless each one of you and your family.



Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, OFM

With your generosity over these past months The Holy Land Foundation has been able to assist our Christian brothers and sisters by providing affordable housing, scholarships for young adults, and assistance in finding work for those in need. Our partnership has changed so many lives – we are so grateful to you. Your contributions have made the difference!

We humbly ask for your continued prayer and financial support. Be assured of our prayers each day in the Holy Land. May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit fill your heart with Peace, Hope, and Love.

In the spirit of St. Francis...

I remain a servant of God and yours,

Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, O.F.M.

Chairman, The Holy Land Foundation

THREE NEW TRUSTEES APPOINTED

The Holy Land Foundation welcomes Thomas E.K. Cerruti, Jean A. Ficarra, and William A. Zappettini as the newest members of our Board of Trustees.

Mr. Cerruti is the President of the Skaggs Institute for Research in La Jolla, CA. Previously, he had been in private law practice in Salt Lake City and San Diego. Mr. Cerruti has been active on a number of charitable boards including past President of Catholic Community Services of Utah, Secretary and Trustee of the Geraldine and Emory M. Ford Foundation as well as other charitable boards in San Diego and Salt Lake City.

Mrs. Jean Ficarra is the President of The Holy Land Christian Charities Corporation, which she founded in 1999. She was the past treasurer of the Georgetown University's Women Association and has received the Silver Palm of Jerusalem award for 25 years of continuous service to the Holy Land. Currently, she is a Board Member of the John Carroll Society, which assists the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. in the Evangelization of the faith and charitable endeavors.



Mrs. Jean Ficarra



Mr. William Zappettini

Mr. Zappettini is the President of the W.A. Zappettini Group, Inc., a holding company for commercial estate and investments. He is also the Director of California Flower Market, Inc., and Founder and Chairman of the SF Brannan Street Wholesale Florist. He has been a member of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants since 1987.

THE HOLY LAND FOUNDATION PILGRIMAGE SPONSORS A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Karen Carroll, Regional Representative for The Holy Land Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, headed the foundation's pilgrimage group that came from July 17-26, 2000. The group gave a wonderful surprise to Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, at the end of the pilgrimage. A check was given to sponsor, for the first year, a Christian student for a scholarship grant.

In addition, another surprise came forth from this group. Five of the couples got together and presented a check for \$5,000 to sponsor another student from the Holy Land to receive a college education. The couples that participated were Karen Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. E. Wegener, Mr. and Mrs. M. Kane, Mr. and Mrs. D. Harlin and Mr. and Mrs. G. Albright.

Fr. Peter expressed his great gratitude for all of the pilgrims who came on this pilgrimage to the Holy Land and for all who here in the Holy Land participated in investing in the young Christians who are the future hope for maintaining the Christian presence.



2000/2001 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On Tuesday August 8, 2000 Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, the President of The Holy Land Foundation and Fr. Abdel-Masih, OFM, Chairman of the Selection Committee met with the twelve scholarship winners who were awarded their respective grants.



Munib Younan



Vicky Abdallah



Johnny Handal



Issam Hanania



Taghrid Costantinides



George Tushyek



Grace Jilleh



Foteh Mickel

There were eight students who received full scholarships and four who received partial scholarships. Fr. Vasko reminded each of them of the importance of an education not only for their future success as professional individuals in the Holy Land but as the future Christian leaders of tomorrow. He stated that the Christians in the U.S. are very concerned about this on-going emigration of their fellow Christians and are continually helping the foundation monetarily to provide scholarship grants and housing facilities. Fr. Abdel-Masih also congratulated the new recipients reminding them of their commitment to be the "best they can" academically and to remain in contact with their respective sponsors. He also announced the creation of The Holy Land Foundation Club to which they, as well as past recipients, now belong. The Club will meet periodically to discuss their future plans. The twelve students receiving grants attend the following universities: Bethlehem University, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Beit-Seit University in Jerusalem, Amman University in Jordan and Cairo University in Egypt.

Mr. Robert Martini, CEO of Bergen Brunswig Corporation has generously contributed \$100,000 towards the foundation's



Nandy Nicodame



Rudy Handal



Issa Sakhleh

scholarship program thus enabling five local Christian students to receive a full four-year college scholarship. In a letter to Fr. Battistelli, Chairman of the foundation, Mr. Martini writes, "It is with great pleasure that I am able to support the wonderful work of The Holy Land Foundation. Shortly, you will be receiving \$100,000 for the proposed use of providing scholarships. We are fortunate that Fr. Peter has been chosen and permitted to carry out God's Will and I am grateful to those of you who participate and encourage this worthy work." The five students that Mr. Martini will be sponsoring are:

Munib Younan from Jerusalem, Vicky Abdallah from Jerusalem, Johnny Handal from Bethlehem, Issam Hanania from Bethlehem, Taghrid Costantinides from

Jerusalem.

Mr. Pat Powers, President of Anima Christi has contributed \$10,000 towards a partial scholarship for George Tushyek of Bethlehem.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Skaggs of Idaho has given \$20,000 for a full scholarship for Grace Jilleh of Jerusalem.

Fr. Jim Bok, OFM Director of Development for the St. John the Baptist province, made it possible for three students to receive three full time scholarships amounting to \$60,000. The students benefiting from such generosity are Foteh Mickel of Jerusalem, Rima Kamar of Nazareth, and Nandy Nicodame of Jerusalem.

And lastly, Mr. and Mrs. William Guyol of St. Louis is providing a full time scholarship for Rudy Handal of Bethlehem.

PAPAL LIMITATIONS

There is no denying that the Pope's visit to the region in March was, within its own parameters, a success. But the facile verdict of *Time Magazine* on April 3rd was hardly justified. "The situation in the Middle East is delicate but promising. A former Israeli commando is looking for his opening; an American president is circling [sic] in search of a legacy. It would not be surprising, a few years down the road, to hear from an Arafat, a Barak, a Clinton or even an Asad that one of the things that kept them on track in the fateful spring and summer of 2000 was a bent old man who called in on the neighborhood and suggested, by word and deed, what strong will, good faith and leadership were all about."

A week is a very long time in the Middle east. Since the Pope's celebrated pilgrimage, the peace process between Israel and Syria has (as predicted here) virtually collapsed, the Palestinians have been left cheated and betrayed, and the "Israeli commando," Ehud Barak, has announced his intention to concentrate on internal affairs instead of the futile endeavor to reach an agreement with Syria. The "bent old man" did well, but there is no Hollywood-style happy ending in the offing.

The dramatic character of the pilgrimage, especially its religious and historical connotations, excited even normally sober observers. The Pope was careful, skilled and extremely diplomatic throughout his seven-day tour in Jordan, Palestine and Israel, but the harsh realities of the Israeli-Arab conflict have not been altered in any way.

Over all, the Pope did achieve a breakthrough of some importance in that he managed to win significant popularity within one of the most insular societies in the world. A Gallup poll for *Ma'ariv*, published on March 31st, yielded some remarkable findings. The questions themselves were quaintly parochial, and foreign readers are bound to gain some useful insight into our unique culture. The poll was carried out the day after the Pontiff's departure:

Who do you respect more as a religious leader, Pope John Paul II, or Rabbi Ovadia Yosef the controversial spiritual leader of Shas?

The Pope - 41%; Yosef - 33%; Both - 14%; Don't know - 12%.

But the results from different categories of the Israeli population are even more interesting. In answer to the same question, the responses were:

Veteran Israelis: The Pope - 37%; Rabbi Yosef - 40%; Both - 13%.

Recent Immigrants (mostly Russians): The Pope - 47%; Yosef - 22%; Both - 17%.

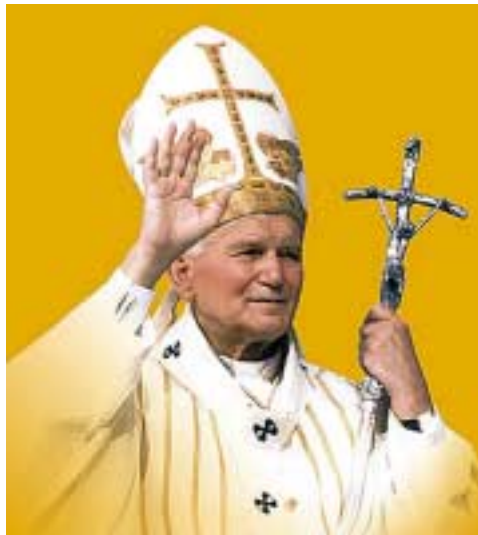
Israeli Arabs: The Pope - 62%; Yosef - 5%; Both - 22%.

Barak voters: The Pope - 57%; Yosef - 18%; Both - 14%.

Netanyahu voters: The Pope - 18%; Yosef - 60%; Both - 11%.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews: The Pope - nil; Yosef - 92%; Both - 8%.

Secular Jews: The Pope - 57%; Yosef - 16%; Both - 14%.



I have never come across a poll, which reflects the polarization of Israeli society more successfully.

The last question illustrates the Pope's achievement in Israel. The general population was asked about their attitude to the "Christian World" in light of the Pope's visit - 44% described their attitude as "positive," 13% were "negative," and 41% remained aloof, "neither positive nor negative."

The Pope went out of his way to mollify Israeli Jews. Much was made of his visit to *Yad Vashem*, and his moving words there on behalf of the Catholic Church in particular and the human race in general can hardly be faulted. It is true that Israel uses *Yad Vashem* systematically to soften up foreign visitor, especially political leaders, for cynical and expedient ends, but the Pontiff's gestures were aimed at reconciling Jews and Christians after centuries of animosity, and not to advance narrow Zionist goals.

Many Israelis tried to shove the notion of "united Israeli Jerusalem" down the Pope's throat. Their undignified number included President Weizmann, Prime Minister Barak, Jerusalem's Mayor Olmert and Chief Rabbi Lau. The Pope constantly refused to react to such provocations, and also remained silent when Yaser Arafat declared Jerusalem was the future capital of his Palestinian state.

The Pope's pro-Palestinian gestures were more humanitarian than political, reiterating the Vatican's commitment to the "natural rights" of the Palestinian people to a homeland on the basis of "relevant" UN resolutions, and demonstrating deep sympathy with refugees.

No wonder Haim Ramon, the relatively dovish Israeli minister charged with overseeing the Pope's visit, was elated. He said on March 29th, with customary candor, that the Pope's views about a "homeland" for the Palestinians were accepted by Israel, falling within the demarcation lines of the Oslo process (namely, obscure enough to enable Ramon and his colleagues to keep all of Jerusalem and some 30% of the West Bank).

The religious and spiritual landmarks of the papal visit are numerous, and much has been written on them by those who specialize in such matters. It marked an important step towards improving the relationship between Jews and Christians, and towards bolstering the prestige of the Catholic Church. But politically speaking, nothing has changed, a fact understood far better by the Pope than by some of his admirers.

(The Haim Baram Column, Middle East International, April 7, 2000, reprinted with permission)

TALK AT RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, June 4, 2000, Fr. Peter Vasko spoke at two services about the Christian exodus to one of the largest and well-known Baptist churches located in Austin, Texas...Riverbend Baptist. The church is ministered and managed by Pastor Gerald Manns of Gerald Mann Ministries. Its membership has over 10,000 faithful and is involved in a wonderful national televised ministry for its members.

In his talk, Fr. Peter pointed out how sacred scripture has called upon all Christians to be of service to the Church in Jerusalem especially in the writings of St. Paul and how we are to be vigilant in seeing that our religious roots and heritage will always be maintained. All of the Christian churches come from the mother church of Jerusalem and without this "mother church" there would be no churches in Texas, New York, Germany, Japan, Finland, etc. Hence, he went on to say, "If we do not have a sense of who we are and where we came from, of where our religious roots took place, then how can we call ourselves Christians?"

This appearance at Riverbend was arranged by one of our benefactors, Ambassador Shelia Lichaez of Panama, a resident in Miami, Florida.



From Left: Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, Asst. Pastor Mike Rhinehart, Ambassador Shelia Lichaez and Mr. & Mrs. George Pond

MAKING A DIFFERENCE...EVERY MONTH

Through our monthly giving program, "Making the Difference," you can be part of the solution to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Please consider making a monthly donation through our automatic giving program. In the past seven years we have learned that the foundation's programs require dependable resources over a sustained period of time. By joining "Making the Difference," you play a significant role in our work to provide scholarships and future jobs to needy students and housing for Christian families living in the Holy Land.

Decide how much you would like to give, send us the coupon below with your check for the first monthly gift, and we will take care of the rest. Each month your bank will automatically deduct the amount from your account and deposit it into The Holy Land Foundation's account. You can change or stop your donation at any time. Not only does this make donating to the foundation easier, it also helps to lower our administrative costs.

YES, I WANT TO JOIN: "MAKING THE DIFFERENCE" IN THE HOLY LAND

Here is my monthly gift of:

\$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 other \$_____

I authorize my bank to transfer the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my bank statement and serve as my receipt. I understand that I may stop my contribution at anytime by contacting The Holy Land Foundation at 1400 Quincy St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017, (202) 269-5430, or my bank.

Authorization: _____ Date: _____

I have included my check for my first monthly gift, made payable to The Holy Land Foundation.

Let's Go Surfing

The Holy Land Foundation is developing a new website which will be accessible at the start of the New Year.

The address will be:

www.theholylanfoundation.org

Details to follow in the upcoming Christmas newsletter.

Editorial Staff & Graphic Design

Fr. Peter F. Vasko, O.F.M.

Denise M. Scalzo

Richard J. Sontag, Jr.

Steven P. Mazelin

Ken Darby

The Holy Land Foundation Summer Awareness Campaign



Above: A dinner reception was held for the foundation hosted by Hattie Poole, our regional representative in San Antonio. Honored guests were L-R: Mark Wittig, Rev. P. Ragsdale, Pastor of St. Luke's, Bishop P. Zurek, Aux. of San Antonio and Fr. Peter.

Right: Fr. Peter Vasko and Mrs. Nancy Cheney, hostess for the Dallas scholarship luncheon.



Left: A dinner reception was hosted at the St. Louis Club by Anthony Sansone, Board of Trustees. Honored dignitaries were L-R: Fr. Thomas Gardner, OFM, Commissary of St. Louis, Mr. Sansone, Fr. G. Battistelli, OFM, Chairman of the foundation and Fr. Abdel-Masih Favez-Fahim, OFM, Comptroller of Franciscan Custody.



A reception was held in at Menlo Park Circus Club in Atherton, CA. Co-hosts were L-R: Mr. William Zappettini, Board of Trustees, Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM and Mr. George McDonald.

Ecumenical Support for The Holy Land Foundation



(Continued from page 1)

conomic and political plight of the Christians in the Holy Land, resulting in emigration from the land of their birth. Ambassador Safieh expressed his increasing disenchantment with the open-ended peace process and said: "We're having a lasting peace process, but what is lacking is the process and not the peace that is so desirable." Safieh went on to say that Israel even has a project to build a new "Old Bethlehem" so tourists can bypass the real "Little Town of Bethlehem." In addressing the goals of The Holy Land Foundation, Safieh asked Christians to support this vital work financially and also to try to meet the local communities, or the "Living Stones," when they visit the Holy Land. The Fundraising dinner raised over \$50,000.00 to benefit the work of the foundation.

Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Ficarra, Mr. And Mrs. Douglas Fehrer, Dr. Ralph Gemelli, William R. Joyce, Jr., Esq., Mrs. Robert McElroy, Mr. And Mrs. Sergio Micheli, Mrs. Hyman G. Rickover and the Hon. Carlos C. Villarreal hosted the Dinner Committee.



L-R: Mrs. Hermy Reyes, Stella Calangi, Mrs. Sonia Tagle, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gaceta of N.Y.

L-R: Mrs. Jean Ficarra, Fr. Giovanni Battistelli, OFM, and Dr. Bernard Ficarra



Center: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Stanzel of Dallas
Sides: Mr. & Mrs. Timothy O'Donnell, President of Christendom College

PLEDGE

Yes, I wish to help maintain and preserve our Christian presence in the Holy Land and support The Holy Land Foundation with a gift of :

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

I wish to donate by credit card Visa Master card American Express

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Your contribution will be used to create scholarships and jobs, provide subsidized housing, and help restore the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. **"Your plenty at the present time should supply their needs so that their surplus may one day supply your needs, with equality as the result."** (II Corinthians, Chapter 8, Verse 14)

Please fill in the information and insert your check made payable to The Holy Land Foundation. Thank you & God bless you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

I would like to receive The Holy Land Newsletter

I am interested in making a gift in my will or estate. Please send me information.

Double your gift! Ask your employer about a matching gift program.

9/00 In order to update our mailing list and save postage costs, please let us know if you are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter or have changed your address.

A Christian exodus, unlike any in our history, is presently occurring in the Holy Land. In the middle of this century, 25 percent of the population of the Holy Land was Christian. Today, as we near the second millennium, it is less than three percent. Specifically, out of more than six million, there are only 160,000 Christians now living in the Holy Land. This is a crucial situation, demanding that we join together and take action before Christianity ceases in the land where Christ founded His Church.

We need your help now! We hope and pray the Lord will touch your hearts and that you will be able to play a role in helping preserve and maintain our Christian presence, religious roots and heritage in the Holy Land.

Please send your donations to:
The Holy Land Foundation
1400 Quincy Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Telephone: (202) 269-5430
Fax: (202) 526-3527

You're Invited

You are invited to consider a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, to benefit The Holy Land Foundation. See first hand the work of the foundation and the plight of the Christian people. Come and celebrate in the land in which salvation history took place.

Pilgrimages for 2001:

January 4 - 13
November 27 - December 6

For information and a brochure contact: Tekton Ministries @ 888-850-6279 toll free.

Before you write a check...

You might be surprised to find that cash may not be the most cost-effective asset for your charitable donation. We suggest that you consider instead a donation of stock. As the value of the particular stock in your portfolio increases, so do the taxes you owe on the capital gain (generally at a rate of 20%).

However, when you donate publicly traded stock held long-term (owned for more than one year) to a qualified charitable organization such as The Holy Land Foundation, you avoid all capital gains taxes. Plus, you may take the full fair market value of the stock gift as a charitable deduction on your income taxes. Consult your tax planner for a complete background to this innovative way of contributing.

Please note...

A change of address and fax number for the West Coast office of The Holy Land Foundation. The new address and fax are as follows:

P.O. Box 130563
Carlsbad, CA 92013
Fax: (760) 476-1825

CHURCH LEADERS SUPPORT PNA ON JERUSALEM

The heads of the churches in Jerusalem affirmed their support for Palestinian sovereignty in East Jerusalem in the wake of a meeting at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Monday between Faisal Hussein, the holder of the Jerusalem File, and the heads of the three main churches in Jerusalem, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I, Armenian Orthodox, Patriarch Torkom II, and the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The church leaders rejected the notion of Jerusalem as a divided city in which Israel shares part of the sovereignty in East Jerusalem.

For his part, Hussein, opening the meeting, said that the Palestinians were negotiating not for East Jerusalem but over the future of the city as a whole.

He also stressed that "it is necessary to reaffirm the international guarantees inherent in international resolutions passed not only on the issue of Jerusalem, but on all other issues relating to the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

Speaking of UN Resolution 242, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in the June War of 1967, Hussein said: "UN Resolution 242 is not subject to negotiations; it is meant to be implemented."

In turn, the heads of the churches dismissed reports, which said the Christian communities were veering away from the national line, and pursuing a course of their own.

They said they considered themselves an integral part of the national Palestinian position. As Christians, they saw themselves as represented at the Camp David talks by the Palestinian negotiating team.

Hanan Ashrawi, Palestinian Legislative Council member for Jerusalem, who attended the meeting, later told reporters the churches reject all attempts at dividing, subdividing and establishing shared sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

On Tuesday, during a meeting at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, with Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin, reaffirmed their demand that the city of Jerusalem remain united and open to worshippers of all the monotheistic religions.

Jerusalem can be shared, but not divided; this is the main idea, the Latin patriarch Michel Sabbah said.

He added that the peace the sides are seeking needs to be based on justice for both but also on full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

*(The Jerusalem Times, July 28, 2000,
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