



Jerusalem, May 2010 / Sivan 5770

Dear Reader,

In March 2010, while the production process of the present issue was well underway, Dr. David Kimche, the founder-publisher of our journal and the founder-president of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, succumbed to a year-long struggle against the merciless and unrelenting onslaught of cancer. Dave's passing was a staggering loss for his family and friends—and for all those who had the privilege and pleasure of working with him in the many institutions with which he was associated, and which he guided, over the course of his long and bountiful life.

Golda Meir once admonished a young protégé, “You are not great enough to be that modest.” Dave was that great—and he was that modest. He left his mark in a myriad of fields, including diplomacy, intelligence, espionage, journalism, academia, and business. Yet, Dave was never one to rest on past laurels—however much he had earned that right. He established this journal when he was 78 years old, an age when most people are winding down their activities and enjoying their retirement. Whenever Dave talked of future plans he exuded the confidence of one who believes that he has enough time to see the project through. There was none of that anxious “I probably won't be here then,” which one sometimes hears from people who have reached a certain age. It was not that Dave failed to recognize his own mortality—he did—but he simply never let it influence his course of action, and we are all the richer for it. Those who worked with Dave will always remember his wisdom, wit, courage, and eloquence, and above all his endearing humility. He was truly one of the great individuals one meets in one's lifetime—a man admired and beloved by countless people of all stations and across the political spectrum, both in Israel and abroad.

In that spirit, my colleagues and I have devoted a part of this issue to Dave and his legacy. May his memory always be a blessing and an unremitting source of inspiration.

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Consonant with our wish to present a cross-section of scholarship and commentary on foreign affairs, particularly as it relates to Israel and the Jewish world, we offer two texts that deal with the vicissitudes of relations between Jerusalem and Washington, as well as a lengthy study on the shift from the Jewish state's historic French orientation to its American one.

The horrifying disaster that recently befell Haitians—and Israel's swift reaction to it—aroused curiosity about the history of ties between Jews, Israel, and Haiti. That topic, too, is examined in these pages. East Central Europe and its relations with Israel is another focus of attention, as is the matter of restitution of Holocaust-era assets. To mark the 150th birthday of Theodor Herzl, we have featured an article on Zionism and statecraft. We are also pleased to publish a deconstruction of Amnesty International's report on Palestinian access to water—and texts on other subjects as well. Finally, as always, we offer reviews of recent literature in our field as well as letters from our readers.

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My colleagues join me in offering a warm welcome to Ambassador Avi Primor as the new president of the ICFR and publisher of this journal. A long-time member of our editorial advisory board, he has worked closely with us for many years and is strongly committed to carrying on Dave's mission and to perpetuating his memory.

Dr. Laurence Weinbaum
Chief Editor