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Dear Reader,

The most fascinating aspect of publishing a journal on international affairs is the ever-changing kaleidoscope of events that characterize its subject matter. International relations are never static. For example, when we began planning this, the sixth issue of our journal, we had no idea that we would have to address the present Russo–Georgian conflict. Other subjects, of course, were more foreseeable and have been plaguing our region for many years now. Thus this issue also features a number of articles on our own tumultuous part of the world, including Israel’s all-important relations with the United States, Iran’s nuclear policy, and what Israel should do with that hot potato— Hamas in Gaza. Some of the most outstanding practitioners, scholars and students in the field of international affairs, both in Israel and abroad, share their views and analysis with us on these and many other topics.

We recently invited the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, Dr. Salam Fayyad, to appear before the Council. Unfortunately, he was forced to cancel his appearance at the last minute, but in his stead we were happy to welcome the PA Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Information, Dr. Riad Malki. The proceedings of that event, attended by a capacity audience, and widely covered in the media, are here as well. Many of our readers will not necessarily agree with the views of Prime Minister Fayyad or Foreign Minister Malki. However, we believe that one of the principal functions of the ICFR and of its publication, the *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, is to offer different points of view on core subjects connected in particular to our field of interest—international affairs as seen through a Middle Eastern, Israeli and Jewish prism.

We would be remiss were we not to mention the fact that we are grateful to the World Jewish Congress which sponsors this journal. However, to ensure its long-term viability and vitality we urge our readers to subscribe to this publication, to advertise in its pages and to contribute to it. Finally, it is a pleasure to take this opportunity to wish our readers a healthy, happy and peaceful 5769, the Jewish New Year.

Dr David Kimche
Publisher