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Dear Reader,

We are very pleased to present you with the seventh issue of the *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, the first number of Volume 3. In a short time, our journal has succeeded in developing a strong reputation in Israel and abroad and is widely read in ministries of foreign affairs, embassies, universities, and of course by an increasing number of subscribers from many countries the world over. The cost of a subscription is modest and we urge readers to take advantage of that opportunity.

As we go to press, Israel is embroiled in conflict with Hamas in Gaza. It is still too early to evaluate conclusively that situation. Sadly, innocent lives were lost in the effort to put a stop to the lethal rockets and mortars that, for the past eight years, were fired almost daily on Israeli towns, villages and kibbutzim across the border from the Gaza Strip into Israel. We offer here a brief, though very thoughtful, analysis by Prof. Gabriel Sheffer of the ongoing strife, as well as a response by Prof. Nathan J. Brown to an article by Efraim Halevi on Israel's relations with Hamas that appeared in the previous issue.

We also bring you analyses and assessments of many other current issues, notably of newly inaugurated President Obama's approach to the Middle East. Other important issues addressed here are the delegitimization of Jews and the Jewish State and also the struggle for the restitution of Jewish property in East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. We are glad to give readers a view of Egyptian–Israeli relations through Egyptian eyes, as well as an article by Rachida Dati, in which the French justice minister discusses the profound changes France has undergone during the Sarkozy presidency. In our section on retrospectives, we have published a thorough analysis of the scholarship of Rashid Khalidi, the foremost Palestinian–American academic, as well as a new evaluation of Harry Truman and the reasons behind his support for the Jewish state. As always, reviews of important literature enjoy an important place in the journal.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a healthy, happy and, above all, peaceful 2009.

Dr. David Kimche
Publisher