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Dear Reader,

It was not easy to create and launch the *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, but happily, in the short time it has existed, our publication has earned a strong reputation for the quality of the analysis presented in its pages—and also for its strict impartiality.

To be sure, some of us did not agree with all the views expressed in the articles that we published, just as some did not agree with the views in all the lectures presented to the Council. In fact, sometimes we strongly disagreed with them. Yet, over time our readers have come to recognize, to accept—and one hopes, to admire—the fact that ours is not an institution devoted to advancing a particular political agenda or dogma. Our objective is to seek knowledge and to impart it. We strive to foster debate and dialogue on Israel's manifold relations with the wider world—especially its predominantly Arab and Islamic surroundings. We have always believed in peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and between Israel and the Middle East as a whole, and continue to do so.

Our last issue went to press as Israel was embroiled in conflict in Gaza. Our present journal goes to press against the backdrop of an event with even more dramatic consequences: the meeting between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington on May 18. As could be expected, both men were all smiles, but behind the handshakes and pleasantries there were clear points of disagreement. For President Obama, the need to advance the vision of two independent states, Israel and Palestine, was essential. That view, however, was not shared by Prime Minister Netanyahu. Similarly, the American president made it plain that Israel must halt all settlement activity.

One of our respected contributors has shared with us his sober views of that parley in the form of a concise and “late-breaking” article, which will certainly contribute to a better understanding of the Obama–Netanyahu summit. A possible US–Israeli showdown as a result of policy differences between Washington and Jerusalem will pose challenges to both the practitioners and scholars of diplomacy. We shall continue to observe and analyze events in a dispassionate manner, presenting a wide range of ideas, just as we have on every event and issue that we have chosen to explore.

Dr. David Kimche
Publisher