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Helen Thomas wants apology from Obama, reasserts Zionists own White House, Congress, March 18, 2011

Nine months after anti-Semitic remarks forced her to resign from her post as a White House correspondent, Helen Thomas remains unrepentant, demanding an apology from President Barack Obama and defending her assertion that Zionists own the White House and Congress. Speaking at the annual spring convention of College Media Advisers in New York City on Tuesday, Thomas said, "I want an apology from the president," [Editor and Publisher](#) reported Friday.

Obama criticized her comments in an interview during a Jewish Heritage Month celebration event at the White House last year when Thomas said Israelis should "get the hell out of Palestine" and "go back home to Poland, Germany, America and everywhere else."

Thomas, who was the oldest and longest-serving member of the White House press corps, resigned the following week. The president later called Thomas' comments "offensive," saying, "She made the right decision [to resign]."

In an interview with Playboy magazine for their April edition, Thomas said she knew she had "hit the third rail" when she began speaking about Jews in the interview last June. "I've had it up to here with the violations against the Palestinians," Thomas said. "Why shouldn't I say it? I knew exactly what I was doing – I was going for broke. I had reached the point of no return. You finally get fed up."

The 90-year-old, who revealed former President Jimmy Carter called her to express sympathy following her resignation, also told Playboy she stood by a speech she made last year in which she said, "We are owned by the propagandists against the Arabs. There's no question about that. Congress, the White House and Hollywood, Wall Street, are owned by the Zionists."

"I want you to look at the Congress that just came in," Thomas told the magazine. "Do you think [New York Democratic senator Charles] Schumer and Lehtinen -- whatever her name is -- in Florida [Republican representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a strong supporter of Israel] are going to be pro-Arab? No. But they're going to be very influential. Eric Cantor, the majority leader of the Republicans, do you think he's going to be for the Arabs? Hell no! I'm telling you, you cannot get 330 votes in Congress for anything that's pro-Arab."

But Thomas became emotional when the reporter asked what she thought her obituary would say. "Oh, I know what they're going to say: 'anti-Semite,'" said Thomas, beginning to cry. "I'm a reporter. I know damn well what they're going to say because they have their print, they have their ink. They don't give a damn about the truth. They have to have it their way, and they'll be writing my obituary."

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/helen_thomas_wants_apology_congress_cwr4eWZ5p0BJdJuf5SqeVP

David Hochman: PLAYBOY INTERVIEW – HELEN THOMAS: DEAN OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS TALKS ABOUT ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND HER FIRING

For more than half a century, Helen Thomas owned the most valuable piece of real estate in the White House briefing room. Her front-row seat at presidential press conferences and its attendant benefits—she was often called on first and usually ended the gatherings with a signature "Thank you, Mr. President"—made her the unofficial dean of the White House press corps. Her bold, irksome questions were like hot pokers to 10 U.S. presidents, and her fearless approach rattled press

secretaries and set a tone for generations of straight-shooting, badgering reporters.

Last summer, still working full-time at 89, she saw her decades-long career fall to pieces after a two-minute video clip went viral on YouTube. A Long Island rabbi and blogger visiting the White House turned his camera on Thomas on May 27 and asked for "any comments on Israel." Thomas instantly shot back, "Tell them to get the hell out of Palestine," adding that the Jews "can go

home" to "Poland, Germany and America and everywhere else." Endless media outrage ensued, prompting Thomas to issue an apology and abruptly "resign" from Hearst Newspapers on June 7. Her speaking agency dropped her, journalism schools and organizations rescinded awards named in her honor and she lost that prized seat in the White House.

Thomas's comments were not a complete shock to those who follow her. In recent years she practically scolded presidents and their gatekeepers for favoring Israel. She had previously asked the White House about Israel's "secret" nuclear arsenal and why President Obama did not condemn last May's Israeli attacks on the aid flotilla headed for Gaza.

Born August 4, 1920, Thomas herself is of Arab descent. She was the seventh of nine children born in Winchester, Kentucky to Syrian-born emigrants from Tripoli, Lebanon. Her family soon moved to Detroit, where her father ran a grocery store even though he couldn't read or write in English. News was often a topic around the house, and after college Thomas landed a job as a girl Friday at a Washington, D.C. newspaper toward the end of World War II. That led her to the copy desk and a cub reporter position and eventually to a job covering government bureaucracy for the wire service United Press International. She remained at UPI for much of her career. As White House correspondent from the Kennedy administration on, Thomas had unusual prominence despite standing just under five feet tall.

Famously direct, Thomas was especially forceful with George W. Bush, whom she once called "the worst

president in American history." She was relentless about getting him to explain his decision to go to war in Iraq, asking over and over, "What was your real reason? What was it? Why did you go to war?" His minions promptly moved Thomas to the back row of the briefing room.

Thomas now writes a column for the Falls Church News-Press in Virginia. She still wakes early to read various newspapers delivered to her door, and she's still out many nights talking politics at favorite D.C. haunts.

Contributing Editor **David Hochman** got the idea to call Thomas to see if she wanted to talk. "She picked up the phone and said yes immediately," he says. "I think she really appreciated the opportunity to do a long-format Q&A to express her side of what happened."

Based in Los Angeles, Hochman flew to Washington to meet Thomas at her apartment near Dupont Circle. They also broke bread at her favorite Palestinian restaurant. "I was curious whether I'd find the ranting woman from the YouTube video," Hochman says. "She turned out to be a person in full possession of her faculties and impressively articulate. Mostly she was the Thomas the public has known forever: feisty, passionate and not afraid to speak up." Does Hochman, who is Jewish, believe Thomas is an anti-Semite? "I'll let the reader decide. But I did think it was amusing when she presented a plate of ham sandwiches and then said, 'Oh, I hope I haven't served the wrong thing.'"



PLAYBOY INTERVIEW:

HELEN THOMAS

APRIL 2011

A candid conversation with the disgraced dean of the White House press corps about her rage against Israel, her sympathy for Palestinians and why she was fired

PLAYBOY: So is this how you pictured retirement?

THOMAS: I'm not retired! I was fired. In fact, I'll die with my boots on. I'm still writing and I'll continue to write and ask hard questions. I will never bow out of journalism.

PLAYBOY: Take us back to the White House courtyard on May 27 when Rabbi David Nesenoff pointed his camera at you and asked for your comments on Israel.

THOMAS: He pulled that thing out like a jackknife. I mean, he started out very nice, introducing me to these two young boys who wanted to be in journalism. He said, "Got any advice? Go for it." I didn't know it was

Jewish Heritage Month, which is why he was at the White House and also why he asked "So what do you think of Israel?" That's when I said, "They should get the hell out of Palestine."

PLAYBOY: Did you realize how controversial those words were as you spoke them?

THOMAS: I knew I'd hit the third rail. You cannot say anything about Israel in this country. But I've lived with this cause for many years. Everybody knows my feelings that the Palestinians have been shortchanged in every way. Sure, the Israelis have a right to exist—but where they were born, not to come and take

someone else's home. I've had it up to here with the violations against the Palestinians. Why shouldn't I say it? I knew exactly what I was doing—I was going for broke. I had reached the point of no return. You finally get fed up.

PLAYBOY: What was life like in the immediate aftermath as millions started viewing the video on YouTube?

THOMAS: I went into self-imposed house arrest for two weeks. It was a case of "know thyself." Isn't that what Socrates said? I wanted to see if I was remorseful—and I wasn't.

PLAYBOY: Did the phone ring off the hook?

THOMAS: No. Nobody called. But I still have some friends in the White House press pool, who reached out to me. I understand they formed Jews for Helen Thomas at one point.

PLAYBOY: That's interesting.

THOMAS: I also heard from Jimmy Carter. He called a few weeks later.

PLAYBOY: He did? What did he say?

THOMAS: Basically he was sympathetic. He talked about the Israelis in the Middle East, the violations. It was very nice of him to call, but I don't want to get him into trouble.

PLAYBOY: His reaction certainly wasn't typical.

THOMAS: No. Every columnist and commentator jumped on me immediately as anti-Semitic. Nobody asked me to explain myself. Nobody said, "What did you really mean?"

PLAYBOY: What did you really mean?

THOMAS: Well, there's no understanding of the Palestinians at all. I mean, they're living there and these people want to come and take their homes and land and water and kill their children and kill them. How many are still under arrest in Israel—never been charged, never been tried, never been convicted? Thousands. Why? Meanwhile, we keep giving Israel everything. Our government bribes the Israelis by saying, "Please come to the [negotiating] table and we'll give you this and we'll give you that." Obama's last offer to the Israelis was \$22 billion in new fighter planes [*Editor's note: The offer was actually just under \$3 billion*], a veto at the UN for anything pro-Arab or pro-Palestinian and a three-month freeze on the colonization and settlers. I mean, what is this? They gave away the store, just as Reagan and every other president did. Why do you have to bribe people to do the right thing? I don't want my government bribing anybody. I want them demanding. Stop all this aid to Israel when they're killing people!

PLAYBOY: It was your follow-up comment, when you said the Jews should go back to Poland, Germany and America, that really infuriated people.

THOMAS: Well, that immediately evoked the concentration camps. What I meant was they should stay where they are because they're not being persecuted—not since World War II, not since 1945. If they were, we sure would hear about it. Instead, they initiated the Jackson-Vanik law, which said the U.S. would not trade with Russia unless it allowed unlimited Jewish emigration. But it was not immigration to the United States, which would have been fine with me. It was to go to Palestine and uproot these people, throw them out of their homes, which they have done through several wars. That's not fair. I want people to understand why the Palestinians are upset. They are

incarcerated and living in an open prison. I say to the Israelis, "Get out of people's homes!" It's unacceptable to have soldiers knocking on a door at three in the morning and saying, "This is my home." And forcing people out of homes they've lived in for centuries? What is this? How can anybody accept it? I mean, Jewish-only roads? Would anyone tolerate something like that in America? White-only roads?

PLAYBOY: You mean Israeli-only roads, not Jewish only, right? [*Editor's note: Israel closes certain roads to Palestinians, but roads are open to all Israeli citizens and to other nationals, regardless of religious background.*]

THOMAS: Israeli-only roads, okay. But it's more than semantics because the Palestinians are deprived of owning these roads. This is their land. I'm sorry, but we're talking about foreigners who came and said, "God gave this land to us." [Former Israeli prime minister - Yitzhak] Rabin said, "Where's the deed?" I mean, come on! Do you know that an Arab Palestinian trying to go home to see his mother has to go through 10 checkpoints and then is held there, while an American tourist can go through right like that? The Palestinian people have to carry their kids to hospitals and are not allowed to drive cars and so forth. What is this? No American Jew would tolerate that sort of treatment here against blacks or anyone else. Why do they allow it over there? And why do they send my American tax dollars to perpetuate it?

PLAYBOY: Do you acknowledge that some Palestinian behavior over the years, including hijacking and the use of suicide bombers, has been wrong and has added to the problem?

THOMAS: In an ideal world passive resistance and world disarmament would be great. Unfortunately we don't live in that world. Of course I don't condone any violence against anyone. But who wouldn't fight for their country? What would any American do if their land was being taken? Remember Pearl Harbor. The Palestinian violence is to protect what little remains of Palestine. The suicide bombers act out of despair and desperation. Three generations of Palestinians have been forced out of their homes—by Israelis—and into refugee camps. And the Israelis are still bulldozing Palestinians' homes in East Jerusalem. Remember, Menachem Begin invented terrorism as his MO—and bragged about it in his first book. That's how Israel was created, aided and abetted by U.S. money and arms. To annex and usurp an occupied people's country is illegal under international law. The Israelis know that, but their superior military force has always prevailed against the indigenous people.

PLAYBOY: What's your reaction to the changes sweeping through the Arab world as throngs of demonstrators take to the streets across the region?

THOMAS: I love the new revolutionary spirit in the Middle East and North Africa. The power of the people is removing ruthless dictators in Tunisia and Egypt—and that's only the beginning. There is no stopping this free new movement. The Arab world is waking up to the possibilities of democratic life and freedom for its people, and I am happy to see this happening in my lifetime.

PLAYBOY: Do you have a personal antipathy toward Jews themselves?

THOMAS: No. I think they're wonderful people. They had to have the most depth. They were leaders in civil

rights. They've always had the heart for others but not for Arabs, for some reason. I'm not anti-Jewish; I'm anti-Zionist. I am anti Israel taking what doesn't belong to it. If you have a home and you're kicked out of that home, you don't come and kick someone else out. Anti-Semite? The Israelis are not even Semites! They're Europeans, and they've come from somewhere else. But even if they were Semites, they would still have no right to usurp other people's land. There are some Israelis with a conscience and a big heart, but unfortunately they are too few.

PLAYBOY: In the wake of your anti-Israel comments, a blogger from *The Atlantic* argued there's really no distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. He wrote, "Thomas was fired for saying that the Jews of Israel should move to Europe, where their relatives had been slaughtered in the most devastating act of genocide in history. She believes that once the Jews are evacuated from their ancestral homeland, the world's only Jewish country should be replaced by what would be the world's 23rd Arab country. She believes that Palestinians deserve a country of their own but that the Jews are undeserving of a nation-state in their homeland, which has had a continuous Jewish presence for 3,000 years...."

THOMAS: [Interrupts] Did a Jew write this? [Editor's note: The writer is Jeffrey Goldberg.]

PLAYBOY: "...and has been the location of two previous Jewish states. This sounds like a very anti-Jewish position to me, not merely an anti-Zionist position."

THOMAS: This is a rotten piece. I mean it's absolutely biased and totally—who are these people? Why do they think they're so deserving? The slaughter of Jews stopped with World War II. I had two brothers and many relatives who fought in that war against Hitler. We believed in it. Every American family was in that fight. But they were liberated since then. And yet they carry on the victimization. American people do not know that the Israeli lobbyists have intimidated them into believing every Jew is a persecuted victim forever—while they are victimizing Palestinians.

PLAYBOY: Let's get to something else you said more recently. In a speech in Detroit last December, you told an Arab group, "We are owned by the propagandists against the Arabs. There's no question about that. Congress, the White House and Hollywood, Wall Street, are owned by the Zionists. No question, in my opinion. They put their money where their mouth is. We're being pushed into a wrong direction in every way." Do you stand by that statement?

THOMAS: Yes, I do. I know it was horrendous, but I know it's true. Tell me it's not true and I'll be happy to be contradicted. I'm just saying they're using their power, and they have power in every direction.

PLAYBOY: That stereotype of Jewish control has been around for more than a century. Do you actually think there's a secret Jewish conspiracy at work in this country?

THOMAS: Not a secret. It's very open. What do you mean secret?

PLAYBOY: Well, for instance, explain the connection between Hollywood and what's happening with the Palestinians.

THOMAS: Power over the White House, power over Congress.

PLAYBOY: By way of contributions?

THOMAS: Everybody is in the pocket of the Israeli lobbies, which are funded by wealthy supporters, including those from Hollywood. Same thing with the financial markets. There's total control.

PLAYBOY: Who are you thinking about specifically? Who are the Jews with the most influence?

THOMAS: I'm not going to name names. What, am I going to name the Ponzi guy on Wall Street [Bernard Madoff] or the others? No.

PLAYBOY: Then how do you make the claim that Jews are running the country?

THOMAS: I want you to look at the Congress that just came in. Do you think [New York Democratic senator Charles] Schumer and Lehtinen—whatever her name is—in Florida [Republican representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a strong supporter of Israel] are going to be pro-Arab? No. But they're going to be very influential. Eric Cantor, the majority leader of the Republicans, do you think he's going to be for the Arabs? Hell no! I'm telling you, you cannot get 330 votes in Congress for anything that's pro-Arab. Nothing. If you're not in, you're eased out, just as Senator William Fulbright was in the 1960s [after claiming that millions of tax-deductible dollars from American philanthropies were being sent to Israel and then funneled back to the U.S. for distribution to organizations with pro-Israel positions]. Congressman Paul Findley from a little old rural district in Illinois made the mistake of shaking hands with Yasir Arafat years ago. It ended up costing him his reelection. He later wrote a book called *They Dare to Speak Out* about how impossible it is to have a position in this country that takes on Israel. Maybe there is a handful that can, but in general you cannot speak against any Zionist movement in this country.

PLAYBOY: Do you begrudge people like Steven Spielberg? He created the Shoah Foundation to chronicle the life stories of Holocaust survivors. What's your feeling about him?

THOMAS: There's nothing wrong with remembering it, but why do we have to constantly remember? We're not at fault. I mean, if they're going to put a Holocaust museum in every city in Germany, that's fine with me. But we didn't do this to the Jews. Why do we have to keep paying the price and why do they keep oppressing the Palestinians? Do the Jews ever look at themselves? Why are they always right? Because they have been oppressed throughout history, I know. And they have this persecution. That's true, but they shouldn't use that to dominate.

PLAYBOY: In America you're talking about a relatively small community. Jews make up roughly two percent of the U.S. population. On a worldwide level, the percentage is well under one percent. Those numbers don't exactly spell domination.

THOMAS: I get where you're leading with this. You know damn well the power they have. It isn't the two percent. It's real power when you own the White House, when you own these other places in terms of your political persuasion. Of course they have power. You don't deny that. You're Jewish, aren't you?

PLAYBOY: Yes.

THOMAS: That's what I thought. Well, you know damn well they have power.

PLAYBOY: Why did it take you so long to speak out like this?

THOMAS: It hasn't taken that long. I've told all my friends and so forth. This has been an issue for me since I first came to Washington.

PLAYBOY: You've kept quiet publicly since the 1940s?

THOMAS: It was certainly on my mind back then. The United Nations Partition Plan was being debated at the UN and in the Arab community, and I knew what the Arabs were going through since I have an Arab background. I was part of that community. Like I said, I've never hesitated to tell my views to all my friends. They knew exactly where I stood. But I finally wanted to speak the truth. And I think I'm old enough to get away with it. Well, almost. Not quite.

PLAYBOY: Were you surprised that people like David Duke and even Hezbollah came out and said you were courageous and a hero for them?

THOMAS: I don't want to be a hero to anyone. I just want to be me, and I want to tell the truth. I want everyone to accept the truth. It's horrible to say some of my best friends are Jews, but they are and they have been.

PLAYBOY: Don't take this the wrong way, but the question many people have is, Has Helen Thomas lost her mind? You're 90, after all. Do you still have all your faculties?

THOMAS: I resent that question! I thoroughly resent it. Why are you interviewing me if I'm crazy? It wouldn't be worth it to you, would it?

PLAYBOY: It's not an unreasonable question.

THOMAS: I resent it. You should apologize.

PLAYBOY: But it's the question everyone wants answered—and you're the one who always tells journalists to ask the hard questions.

THOMAS: They want to know if I'm crazy? You have to be crazy to criticize Israel? You have to be crazy to criticize tyranny? I learned before Hitler that you have to stand up for something. You have to stand up. We always have to take a stand against human tyranny wherever it occurs. [*pauses*] Would you like a Coke or a ginger ale?

PLAYBOY: No, thank you.

THOMAS: We have Diet Coke. Wine?

PLAYBOY: No, we're good.

THOMAS: Scotch?

PLAYBOY: No, thank you. How's your health, by the way?

THOMAS: I'm a little rickety.

PLAYBOY: Do people live a long time in your family?

THOMAS: I had a brother who just died at 100.

PLAYBOY: Wow. How long did your parents live?

THOMAS: Into their 60s. I'd like to live a long life.

PLAYBOY: Do you fear dying?

THOMAS: No, but I'm not ready to go. You never know, though. It's fate.

PLAYBOY: Life is unpredictable, that's for sure.

THOMAS: There's an Arab expression, "*Maktub*."

PLAYBOY: Which means?

THOMAS: "It is written."

PLAYBOY: Meaning whatever will be will be?

THOMAS: I don't know if I'm that fatalistic, but yes.

PLAYBOY: Do you picture heaven in any way? What would heaven be for you?

THOMAS: I never thought about heaven per se. I think when you're dead, you're dead. If anything happens after that, you just hope you don't go to hell.

PLAYBOY: When people write your obituary—

THOMAS: [*Eyes suddenly fill with tears*] Oh, I know what they're going to say: "anti-Semite."

PLAYBOY: That has to bother you after all your years of hard work.

THOMAS: [*Starts to cry*] I'm a reporter.

PLAYBOY: What's making you emotional?

THOMAS: I'm a reporter. [*sobs*] I know damn well what they're going to say because they have their print, they have their ink. They don't give a damn about the truth. They have to have it their way, and they'll be writing my obituary.

PLAYBOY: Isn't that their job?

THOMAS: Well, I don't want to be treated that way. [*pauses but continues to cry*] I'm sorry. But what am I supposed to do, love every Jew because they want to take Palestine? It's a real cause with me. They should have a conscience and they don't if that's what they're going to do. Is there such a thing as a conscience? I think there is. Stop taking what doesn't belong to you! Stop killing these people. These children throw stones at them, and they shoot them. Where is the Jewish conscience? I want to know. Have some feeling. They can't just come in and say, "This is my home," knock on the door at three in the morning and have the Israeli military take them out. That's what happens. And that's what happened to the Jews in Germany. Why do they inflict that same pain on people who did nothing to them? [*takes another break to compose herself*] I sure didn't want to cry. But I do care about people. And I don't care what they write about me. They've already written it. My family will be disappointed in me for crying.

PLAYBOY: We in the public never get to see you cry. Helen Thomas has always been the picture of toughness and strength.

THOMAS: Oh, I've cried all my life. I'm a crybaby. It's not that I'm soft; I just cry at the drop of a hat.

PLAYBOY: Let's shift gears. You have literally had a front-row seat on the presidency. What should the American people know about how the White House really operates?

THOMAS: They don't know how intense the pressure from different special interests is on the president and congressmen. Politicians more often than not give in to that pressure. These elected officials are supposed to be doing what we want them to do. But I suppose that's the reason we have the Tea Party. People are unhappy. The trouble is, swinging to the right is always dangerous. We end up losing so much in the rush to conservatism. But even Obama has fallen down that hole. He's pushing a conservative agenda.

PLAYBOY: The right doesn't see Obama that way. How is Obama conservative?

THOMAS: Look at Guantánamo. With a stroke of a pen, the day after Obama took the oath he should have said, "We're getting the hell out of here." Same thing with Iraq and Afghanistan. There's no reason for us to be in a war. "They'll all come here if we don't go there." That is baloney. Go halfway around the world to kill and die? Why? Now the veterans can't get jobs. I see stories every day about soldiers being liberated from Iraq only to end up unemployed. Where is Obama? How can he continue these Bush policies that were so mean and rotten and unjust? People had this impression that Obama would be a peaceful president, but there he is, as hawkish as any of them. And Hillary Clinton is no liberal either. She put out the word to "capture or kill"

for Afghanistan. What would she do that for, really? Capture or kill? What does this mean? I thought, naively perhaps, that she and Obama would bring change, that they would be different. I assumed wrongly that they would be liberal because he's black and she's a woman. It's maddening.

PLAYBOY: Who's the greatest president you've covered?

THOMAS: Well, I think Carter was most impressive from the perspective of pure intellect. He was the smartest, if not the most effectual. A man of bold ideas and great wisdom. But that doesn't mean he was a great president. He wasn't a schmoozer. He didn't know how to do that part of the job.

PLAYBOY: Incidentally, Carter recently said America is ready for its first gay president. Do you think that's true?

THOMAS: Why not? Absolutely. Don't underestimate America.

PLAYBOY: So who was the greatest president you've covered?

THOMAS: I'd say it was a draw. Kennedy and Johnson both impressed me the most for knowing the country, knowing how to legislate and how to get things done and for having monumental ideals. They were presidents who served during remarkable times and lived up to those times.

PLAYBOY: Then there was Richard Nixon. Why didn't you see Watergate coming?

THOMAS: Because we were on the body watch.

PLAYBOY: Meaning what?

THOMAS: When you're with a wire service, you're always with the president. You're always trailing him; you're always there when he's in public. You don't have time to chase the backstory. I mean, I didn't think Nixon was totally honest, but I didn't know about Watergate per se because when you're following the president you can't go digging.

PLAYBOY: You were the only female print reporter to accompany Nixon on his landmark visit to China in 1972. What's your lasting memory from that trip?

THOMAS: Everything. It was a magnificent trip—eight days when you never wanted to sleep you were so afraid to miss something. Everything was a story: what the Chinese wore, what they ate, even what I ate. I would call my office and say President Nixon was going to meet with so-and-so, and they'd say, "No, wait a minute. We want to know what your room is like and what you're having for breakfast." Every reporter in Washington wanted to be on that trip, but it was very limited.

PLAYBOY: How do you explain your ability to get access like that? Nobody else had the front-row spot at the White House as long as you did or got to ask the first question at press conferences. What was your secret?

THOMAS: I thought it was my due, actually. [*laughs*] I worked hard. And while I've always felt privileged to go to the White House, I felt this was what I was supposed to do, which is ask hard questions. So many people outside the White House gates wonder what's going on in there. When I walk in or out, they always ask, "Is the president there? Is he working?" You want to just say, "Come in. It's your house. This is your house." [*points to plate of ham sandwiches*] Here, have a sandwich.

PLAYBOY: No, thank you. Did you go into journalism because you wanted to make a difference?

THOMAS: Hell no. I got into it because I am very nosy, very curious, and because I thought it was a great profession. It's an education every day to be in journalism, and it's given me a great life.

PLAYBOY: Were you the kid in the front row at school, asking questions the teacher didn't want to hear?

THOMAS: No. That came later. I was afraid of authority as a kid. I certainly wasn't going to challenge teachers. But I had great parents who taught me never to be seen as less than anyone else. My mother and father couldn't read or write English, but they were very involved with their friends in talking politics. We were thrilled when my father made a check mark for Roosevelt to be elected. He was a proud man. He ran a small grocery and fed our whole ethnic neighborhood in Detroit—Italians on one side, Germans on the other, everybody hungry. It's the classic immigrant story, but they were more liberated than most. They always told me I didn't need to get married or have children to be successful. That was unusual in those days and still is. And I saw from an early age that women weren't being treated right, weren't getting opportunities. I wanted to be a newspaperwoman, and I got on the high school paper. I worked on the college paper at Wayne State University and loved it. When I came to Washington I got a job as a copyboy, running for coffee, cutting copy. This was during World War II. Soon enough, I was covering politics. Perhaps there was some element of wanting to do good. I saw what was happening with blacks, civil rights and everything else. Something had to be done in our country, by God, and I was going to help any way I could.

PLAYBOY: What's your earliest memory of being at the White House?

THOMAS: I sort of assigned myself to the White House. I went to cover the Kennedy family on Inauguration Day. I covered men, women, children, animals, everything that moved in the Kennedy White House. I was like the woman who came to dinner; I never left. After the inauguration, UPI said, "Okay, Thomas, you're assigned." It was a three-person staff: Merriman Smith, Alvin Spivak and myself. Merriman Smith was the brilliant reporter who won the Pulitzer in Dallas the day Kennedy was killed.

PLAYBOY: Where were you that day?

THOMAS: I was getting ready to go on a vacation and was in a fancy restaurant on Connecticut Avenue in D.C. with someone from Jackie's office and an AP reporter and rival who was my closest friend. We ordered lunch and I heard a radio. It sounded like a sporting event, football maybe. But I thought, It's Friday; how strange. So I went over to listen, and that's when I heard "Kennedy's been shot." We all shot out of that restaurant and left Jackie's staff with the bill. The AP girl ran to her office and I ran to mine. I walked in and they said, "You're on vacation." I said, "No, I'm not." They said, "Okay. Get in a cab and go to Andrews Air Force Base. You're going to Dallas." It was assumed that Kennedy was still alive. By the time I was in the cab, it was formally announced that he was dead.

PLAYBOY: So you stayed in Washington?

THOMAS: I stayed at Andrews and waited there until *Air Force One* came in with the body. I saw Jackie and the pink suit and the blood. I was brokenhearted like everyone else. Kennedy was as brilliant as he was

charming, and I had a wonderful personal relationship and rapport with him. He teased me a lot. I remember on St. Patrick's Day one year JFK came over to the press pool, and I said, "It's a great day for the Irish, Mr. President." And he said, "Well, what are you doing here, Helen?" I mean, his wit was that quick.

PLAYBOY: What was it like being inside the White House during that time?

THOMAS: The days after the assassination were surreal. Jackie hadn't yet moved out of the White House and LBJ hadn't yet moved in, so every day we were going to LBJ's home and talking to him in the motorcade. It's funny thinking about it now. Today Biden rides by like a monarch with all sirens blaring. He has eight outriders, two scout cars and I don't know how many police trailing in the back. LBJ demanded total silence for his motorcade around town and into the White House.

PLAYBOY: What does that say about Joe Biden?

THOMAS: It was Cheney who started it, I think. That was his MO. Now, there was a vice president. [laughs] The idea that he could have been president. I think Cheney is diabolical. How much money has he made from Halliburton? Now they're all in hiding, he and his men. They've all slipped away into corporate life, universities or think tanks. But getting back to LBJ, he used to do these moving press conferences, which was especially hard since I was in heels and would be falling this way and that trying to keep up with him. He had this habit of whispering, so we had to stay close. On walks around the South Lawn he would let his hair down. We were privileged because we were getting what was really on his mind. Then he'd say, "You know, this is all off the record." Well, none of us thought it was off the record. We knew, whatever he was trying to tell us, that he wanted the story out but not attributed to him. We'd have to go and find the information on our own. It was quite a study in press relations. You had to work hard not to be manipulated.

PLAYBOY: You certainly never had a problem asking hard questions. George W. Bush moved you to the back of the briefing room to get you off his back.

THOMAS: Actually, it was Ari Fleischer, the number one liar in the White House. He didn't like that I was asking too many mean questions about where the Israelis were getting their arms and whatnot. So I got pushed to the back. But the first opportunity I had to challenge Bush, I did.

PLAYBOY: You asked him a bold question in 2006. You said, "Your decision to invade Iraq has caused the deaths of thousands of Americans and Iraqis, wounds of Americans and Iraqis for a lifetime. Every reason given, publicly at least, has turned out not to be true. My question is, Why did you really want to go to war?" He danced around the answer. Did you have an answer in mind when you asked that question? What do you think has driven America's involvement in these recent wars?

THOMAS: You tell me.

PLAYBOY: No, you tell us.

THOMAS: Well, no president has ever told the truth about why we're there. I think oil has a lot to do with it. I think there's an Israel connection. Our government feels compelled to protect Israel. With Bush, some people say it was George Jr. avenging for Daddy. At least Bush's father understood what war was about. He had been in war. He was more cautious. He certainly lined up the Arab countries to support fighting the invasion of Kuwait. The Bush family has always been rich people in search of a job, but George Sr. had been head of the CIA and chairman of the Republican National Committee. He knew politics and he knew foreign policy, but he didn't give any of that to his son. Dubya was a hip-shooter. If you look at the Downing Street Memo from 2002, you see the chief of British intelligence had come here just before George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq. It concludes that the president simply was determined to go to war and that he wanted to fix the facts to do it. But there were no facts. We just went to war for no reason.

PLAYBOY: So you never believed the line that the world would be "a safer place" without Saddam Hussein?

THOMAS: I think it was wrong to hang Saddam Hussein. He should have been put before an international court for war crimes and everything else. But for us to just bypass the law and have him hanged was wrong. Not that the press called the president on it. The press rallied around the flag on that one.

PLAYBOY: Who's your most trusted news source, by the way?

THOMAS: Nobody, really. I like the liberal press. I like E.J. Dionne Jr. in *The Washington Post*. I like Sam Donaldson. I believe he's an honest man. I loved Walter Cronkite. I certainly loved Ed Murrow. But I don't see replicas around.

PLAYBOY: What do you think of Fox News?

THOMAS: I don't watch Fox and I don't follow Fox.

PLAYBOY: Not even Glenn Beck?

THOMAS: Who?

PLAYBOY: Glenn Beck. He's on Fox.

THOMAS: No, don't know him.

PLAYBOY: Do you know who Bill O'Reilly is?

THOMAS: Yes, I do. He sent me flowers after insulting me for something or other.

PLAYBOY: Is anyone asking the tough questions about Israel?

THOMAS: We're still not getting the full story on Israel. I asked both President Obama at a news conference and Hillary if they knew of any nations in the Middle East that had nuclear weapons. Obama danced around it and said, "I don't want to speculate." Hillary said, "Oh, Helen, you're cute" or something to that effect. She laughed it off.

PLAYBOY: Why would our government remain quiet if Israel had nukes?

THOMAS: Years ago we made a pact with Golda Meir never to say it. In her era, they would never say it, and they can't say it now because they can't tell Iran and all these other countries that they have nukes. That's my opinion. Our government won't tell the truth, and neither will the Israelis. Everyone knows, but I can't write "Everyone knows." You have to attribute it to somebody. Again, you don't see these stories in the news. You have to go to a magazine like *The Nation* or the offbeat press to find out what is really happening. They don't say that in *The New York Times*.

PLAYBOY: Or we can get our news from comedians like Jon Stewart. What's your take on him?

THOMAS: I don't know. He called me anti-Semitic. What is this crap? Anti-Semitic? What is he?

PLAYBOY: What about Bill Maher?

THOMAS: I like Bill Maher. Remember when he said the 9/11 bombers were not cowards? He lost his job temporarily, but he was right: Anybody who flies an airplane into a building isn't a coward. That was too logical for people, though. You can't be that honest. [laughs] It's like the Japanese kamikazes in World War II. They were diabolical, flying right into ships, but they certainly weren't cowards. There are two sides to every story. I guess the trouble is certain stories just don't sell newspapers.

PLAYBOY: Nothing's selling newspapers these days.

THOMAS: And it's a tragedy. I still like a newspaper in my hand. I get *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* outside the door every morning and run to them. I like the print press. You don't get anything in depth anymore without a newspaper. Everything is a headline, a sound bite. I worry about young people really getting to know what's going on in our world.

PLAYBOY: How much time do you spend online?

THOMAS: Uh-uh. I'm a paper-and-pencil person. I probably should look at Facebook and Huffington Post and these other things, but I don't. Everyone with a laptop thinks they're a journalist and everyone with a camera thinks they're a news photographer. Where are the standards? How can we get back to the ethics and standards of journalism? There's no editing, no oversight. It's just thrown to the wind. I'm afraid of what's happening.

PLAYBOY: But you can't deny the power of the web. Look at WikiLeaks. What did you think of those diplomatic revelations?

THOMAS: I think it's great. It's important to reveal what's going on behind the scenes. We wouldn't have known half this stuff without this information, and it's going to change everything as far as diplomacy. It's hard to believe we didn't

know some of this stuff before. Maybe I should have been digging into these things myself. I'm probably not a good reporter. [laughs]

PLAYBOY: By the way, did you ever see Marilyn Monroe backstage at the White House?

THOMAS: [Laughs] Now these are the questions I like, not the ones that make me cry. No, I never saw Marilyn. But I saw a lot.

PLAYBOY: What about Monica Lewinsky? Was there talk in the pressroom that Bill Clinton was having sex with someone before that news got out?

THOMAS: There's always talk, but I never assume anything. That's the first law of journalism. Your mother says she loves you, check it out. So no, I didn't suspect.

PLAYBOY: Were you surprised?

THOMAS: No. I knew how women liked Clinton very much.

PLAYBOY: Do you think it's the public's right to know what's happening in the president's private life?

THOMAS: Absolutely. We need to know everything a president's up to. He's on our time, on our payroll. He's a public servant.

PLAYBOY: Were you all aware that President Reagan was taking naps in the White House when he should have been at meetings?

THOMAS: We knew he fell asleep a lot. But I still feel he was making the decisions, even if some of them weren't great. Ketchup was a vegetable on the school lunch program. I think Reagan was so conservative, he really believed people could pull themselves up without any government assistance, get out of wherever they were to find a job and so forth. That created a real underclass in this country. But there were also things I liked about Reagan. He began to bend toward the Soviet Union. It was Nancy who pushed him on that. She convinced him to go to Russia to see for himself that these people were real. That began a whole transformation personally for Reagan. He saw that the Russians laughed and cried and were human. After he came back from meeting Gorbachev for the first time, I said to him, "Mr. President, to think that if you had gone to Moscow 10 or 20 years ago, you might have found out back then that they laugh, they cry, they're human." "Nope," he said. "They're the ones who've changed."

PLAYBOY: How much was Nancy Reagan controlling things behind the scenes?

THOMAS: Nancy certainly was important and powerful, but I think it's because their marriage was so close. Everybody liked Reagan, but he wasn't particularly connected to anyone aside from Nancy. It was morning in America and all that jazz, but you never got the feeling he was warm. He'd rather be alone with his wife up in the family quarters.

PLAYBOY: Press secretaries are paid to obscure the truth, are they not?

THOMAS: [Laughs] Tell me about it. But we had a few good ones. I loved Pierre Salinger—loved his *joie de vivre*, his intelligence, his wit—though he was really the first press secretary to attempt to control the press. He exerted tremendous influence in shifting the story to places he wanted it to go. Bill Moyers tried to do the same, and I had to fight him on it. I once accused him of not being honest and he said, "Well, I might shade the truth a little." Shade the truth? There's no room for shading the truth in journalism. What's funny is that so many of these guys ended up working in journalism. Look at George Stephanopoulos. He's Mr. Journalism now, which is ironic because he started closing the door to the press secretary's office his first week on the job. "Journalists keep out!"

PLAYBOY: It sounds like he wasn't your favorite gatekeeper.

THOMAS: I was very unhappy with him when he came to the White House. Dee Dee Myers was the press secretary under Clinton, but Stephanopoulos was head of communications and he kept forcing her out of the way and taking over. He ran the office with tight control, and since he made the mistake of wanting his briefings to be on TV, I kept asking, "Why have a press secretary if we can't freely go and ask them private questions?" And it was heard from coast to coast. He didn't

treat us civilly. But then immediately after he's out of the White House, he wants to go into our profession. It's like he couldn't stand being out of the limelight. I mean, why should George Stephanopoulos have been a great journalist? Well, he's not, in my book. The way he treated us. I don't want to sound like I hold a grudge, but you do have a memory for certain personalities.

PLAYBOY: Has there ever been an honest press secretary?

THOMAS: Jerry terHorst. He lasted one month. He was President Ford's press secretary. He had covered Ford in Washington. He had been here for 29 years as a reporter from the Grand Rapids paper and then *The Detroit News*. He understood the press. But he was incapable of lying, and he quit when Ford pardoned Nixon, on the very day. He couldn't take it. Poor Jerry Ford. He just wasn't ready to be president. He had prepared himself to be Speaker of the House and stepped into those shoes okay, but he just wasn't equipped for the big job. We saw that Betty Ford struggled too, of course.

PLAYBOY: You and Douglas Cornell, a White House correspondent for rival Associated Press, were married for 11 years before he died, in 1982. Did you ever regret not having children?

THOMAS: Well, until Doug, boyfriends weren't exactly beating down the door, so I had a clear path to be a reporter. I worried about having children, actually, what it would have meant for them to have someone working all the time. I know I should have done it, but I feel I didn't miss anything. Can I get you some wine?

PLAYBOY: It's still pretty early in the day. No thanks. By the way, is it true what they say about political journalists being big drinkers?

THOMAS: It used to be. Not so much anymore.

PLAYBOY: Were you ever a drinker?

THOMAS: I don't think I'm a heavy drinker, but I like to drink.

PLAYBOY: What's your beverage of choice?

THOMAS: Scotch. On the rocks. I like wine, too, and I like vodka and tonic. [laughs] With lots of limes. Sure you don't want something?

PLAYBOY: No, thank you. Do you miss being at the White House every day?

THOMAS: Of course I do. There's nothing to replace being there as a reporter with your eyes and your ears. You see things. You're not always in the know, but you get the atmosphere and so forth. I've had a great career.

PLAYBOY: What's your hope for the future?

THOMAS: On a political level, I hope for disarmament. Billions and billions are being spent every week on the war in Afghanistan. We have 700 military bases around the world. What do you think it costs to keep that war machine running? It's not working. I thought Obama would be for peace, but he's not. There are no peacemakers left. There's no antiwar movement to speak of. America just keeps going, keeps fighting, keeps spending. I want the killing to stop.

PLAYBOY: How would you like to be remembered?

THOMAS: As the person who asked why. That's what I want as my epitaph: "Why?" It's always been my favorite question, even though it rarely gets answered. As I said before, because of what happened recently, people are going to remember me a certain way. The truth is, I don't hate anybody. I care deeply about people. I care for the poor, the sick, the lame, the harmed, those who've been treated unjustly. I like the fact that you asked me if I'm nuts. People think you're nuts if you take a stand in this life. I've always cared about what happens in the world, and I think what the Israelis are doing is wrong. We have to care about our fellow man, and we don't. Somehow we've lost that sense. It's become almost a sin to care. But we are all God's children, right? [laughs]

PLAYBOY: Do you believe in God?

THOMAS: Who knows? I was raised Greek Orthodox, but I never understood what was going on. In college I moved away from religion, and then when I went to work I would go to church with the president. I'd pray to whatever god the president prayed to. I prayed to all of them—just in case. Now I just pray in hopes that something good will happen. I pray to whoever the gods may be.

PLAYBOY: That makes sense. One last thing: I heard you once say journalists shouldn't say thank you after an interview with a politician. But you famously said "Thank you, Mr. President" for almost 50 years.

THOMAS: I was following a tradition. My old colleague Merriman Smith was the one who invented the phrase during

the Truman era. After that, whoever was the senior reporter at a news conference would say it. That was my role for many years. It's okay to say thank you.

PLAYBOY: Well, thank you, Ms. Thomas.

THOMAS: Thank you.

From: ReportersNotebook@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2011 11:57 PM

Subject: Helen Thomas is Playboy's April Interview - PR Newswire - sacbee.com

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/17/3483272/helen-thomas-is-playboys-april.html>

Memo:

From the desk of Michael Santomauro, March 2011

Most of us are mentally trapped to think Jewish.

Actually, it is safe to say that virtually every mainstream publication or other type of media organ is "nothing more than a screen to present chosen views."

The great battle over the last century has been a battle for the mind of the Western peoples, i.e., non-Jewish Euros. The chosen won it by acquiring control over essentially the complete mainstream news, information, education and entertainment media of every type, and using that control to infuse and disseminate their message, agenda and worldview, their way of thinking, or rather the way they want us to think. Since at least the 1960s this campaign has been effectively complete. Since then they have shaped and controlled the minds of all but a seeming few of us in varying degree with almost no opposition or competition from any alternative worldview.

So now most of us are mentally trapped in the box the chosen have made for us, which we have lived in all our lives. Only a few have managed to avoid it or escape it, or to even sometimes see outside of it, and so actually "think outside of the (Jewish) box."

What happened to Oliver Stone is a good case study. *The Wall Street Journal* reported last summer that Stone said that

"public opinion was focused on the Holocaust because of 'Jewish domination of the media.'" Stone also said that the Jews "stay on top of every comment, the most powerful lobby in Washington. Israel has f--- up United States foreign policy for years."

Like so many others before him, Stone groveled: "In trying to make a broader historical point about the range of atrocities the Germans committed against many people, I made a clumsy association about the Holocaust, for which I am sorry and I regret. Jews obviously do not control media or any other industry."

Joe Sobran who died last year had this to say about Jewish media power: "Jewish control of the major media in the media age makes the enforced silence both paradoxical and paralyzing. Survival in public life requires that you know all about it, but never refer to it. A hypocritical etiquette forces us to pretend that the Jews are powerless victims; and if you don't respect their victimhood, they'll destroy you. It's a phenomenal display not of wickedness, really, but of fierce ethnocentrism, a sort of furtive racial superpatriotism."

In 1996, reprinted in the May 27th issue of the *New York Times*, by Ari Shavit, an Israeli columnist describing his feelings on the killings of a hundred civilians in a military skirmish in southern Lebanon. Shavit wrote:

"We killed them out of a certain naive hubris. Believing with absolute certitude that now, with the White House, the Senate, and much of the American media in our hands, the lives of others do not count as much as our own." Peace. Michael Santomauro

ReporterNotebook@gmail.com

PS: An antisemite condemns people for being Jews, I am not an antisemite.

Steven Campbell: The big lie

Dear Editor:

In regards to the March 17 article in the Aspen Times, "Aspen Security Forum to Assess Terror Risk in 10th Year after 9/11," [see below] one can only stand in wonder at the sheer audacity and Orwellian chutzpah of the Aspen Institute's Homeland Security Program and the "more than 50 top-level current and former government officials, industry leaders, noted print and broadcast journalists, leading thinkers, and concerned citizens." In my book, the Aspen Institute and any of these featured speakers who does not at least bring into question the official government story of 9/11 is at best a brainwashed fool and at worst a liar and a traitor.

I would say, given all the years to investigate this crime, that most of those in this high profile group who promote the official story, fall into the latter category.

— "9/11 is the biggest lie in world history — and it's destined to fall sooner or later." — Historian Webster Tarpley

— "The 'War on Terrorism' is the biggest lie in U.S. history." —

Economics professor Michel Chossudovsky

— "We have had no accountability of 9/11." — Sibel Edmonds, FBI translator and whistle-blower

— "9/11 is in the hands of people who insult our intelligence at every level. This stuff doesn't stand up to the most casual examination. It's like any of these vast, elaborate attempts to

terrorize our people: Any free examination of the evidence on its merits exposes what's at work." — Ralph Schoenmann

— "The penalty good men pay for their indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." — Plato

— "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." — Abraham Lincoln

Thanks to Dr. Eric T. Karlstrom [www.911nwo.com] and thousands of others worldwide who have shown the official story of 9/11 to be a lie.

Steve Campbell, Founder, Citizens for 9/11 Truth, Glenwood Springs

<http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20110319/LETTER/110319816/1020&parentprofile=1061>

Aspen Security Forum to assess terror risk in 10th year after 9/11

Aspen Times staff report, Aspen, CO Colorado

March, 17 2011 4:49 am



Janet Napolitano, secretary of Homeland Security, will speak at the 2011 Aspen Security Forum in July.

Ed Andrieski / AP

ASPEN — Some top U.S. government officials, including Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, will be among the featured speakers at the Aspen Institute's 2011 Aspen Security Forum. The second annual conference will be held July 27-30 at the Aspen Meadows campus.

The forum's speakers will explore topics like the apparent growth in the homegrown terror threat, the government's efforts to prevent another attack and the balance between security and liberty.

"Osama bin Laden is still at large somewhere in the badlands of 'Afpak,' and 'Al Qaeda Central' is still plotting and planning. Meanwhile, an increasing number of recent incidents attributed to naturalized citizens, legal residents, and native-born Americans suggests that, like Europe, the United States is now plagued by homegrown terrorism," the website for the forum says.

Other speakers at the conference will be Transportation Security Administration Administrator John Pistole and Admiral Eric Olson, commander of U.S. Special Operations Forces.

Two former National Security advisers, Gen. Jim Jones and Stephen Hadley, are also in the lineup. All told, more than 50

top-level current and former government officials, industry leaders, noted print and broadcast journalists, leading thinkers, and concerned citizens will discuss and debate the key issues in homeland security and counterterrorism. A list of currently confirmed speakers and registration information is available at

www.aspensecurityforum.org. A general forum pass is \$1,200. Passes for university students and faculty and employees of government or nonprofits are \$1,000.

The strength of the conference is its breadth and depth, and the ability to engage with some many key decision-makers and leading thinkers in national security and counterterrorism, according to Clark Kent Ervin, director of the Aspen Institute's Homeland Security Program.

Ervin said the forum is timely because the terror threat has never been greater in the 10 years since 9/11.

An Oscar-nominated short film, "Killing in the Name," will be screened at the forum and discussed by a panel of terrorism experts along with Carie Lemack, the film's co-producer. "Killing in the Name" is about terror victims' and survivors' experiences.

<http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20110317/NEWS/110319860/1001&parentprofile=1058>

Revealed: The 'five-star jails' used for Hitler's illustrious prisoners of war

By ALAN HALL IN BERLIN, 19 March 2011

A NEW book published in Germany today reveals the secret SS "luxury jails" that became home for prominent prisoners during the Second World War. While most enemies of Hitler languished and died in Gestapo cellars and concentration camp huts, there were hundreds who received a bottle of champagne every day, plus whisky, cigarettes, chocolates and books. For these "special and honoured" opponents of the Reich the only thing missing was freedom itself. But almost all of them survived the war.

In Hitler's Hand; Special and Honoured Prisoners of the SS by historian Volker Koop reveals in detail the chain of "five-star jails" set up in castles, former luxury hotels and country estates. The high-society inmates included diplomats, state representatives, industrialists, manufacturers, high-ranking clergymen and aristocrats who Adolf Hitler wanted held as hostages.

French diplomat André François-Poncet was interned at the Ifen Hotel in Austria, a pre-war watering hole of the rich and famous. He was allowed to study theatre, walk unguarded round a lake and listen to foreign news broadcasts - something that earned Germans a death sentence if caught. His only complaint: the SS cooks made him too many stews which "were not to my taste".

Belgian king Leopold III was interned in a castle near Brussels and later at Schloss Hirschberg in Saxony, where the SS allowed him to set up a miniature court. On 19 November, 1940 Hitler even received the king at his Berghof retreat at Berchtesgaden - where Leopold displeased the Führer by requesting the release of Belgian prisoners of war.

Mr Koop found records that show these special prisoners received on average nine times the monthly food allowance of ordinary Germans during wartime - plus their alcoholic beverages of choice - and were allowed unlimited correspondence with family members delivered by the postal service of the SS.

At Schloss Itter in Austria, the Nazis interned most of their prominent French prisoners, including the last premier of the Third Republic, Eduard Daladier, and General Maurice Gamelin. Alongside them were regular concentration camp prisoners with none of their privileges. The special prisoners were allowed to attend Mass on Sundays with their wives, to choose menus for dinner and received salutes from the SS guards.

<http://news.scotsman.com/world/Revealed-The-39five-star-jails39-used.6736675.jp>

The Winds of Change in the Arab World: Aborting the Palestinian State

By Hesham Tillawi, PhD, tillawi@currentissues.tv, www.currentissues.tv

"This national ethnic minority picture extending from Morocco to India and from Somalia to Turkey points to the absence of stability and a rapid degeneration in the entire region. When this picture is added to the economic one, we see how the entire region is built like a house of cards, unable to withstand its severe problems." --1982, World Zionist Organization.

When approaching (and hopefully better understanding) the situations in Egypt, Tunisia and other parts of the Middle East, it is important to consider the above statement, as it summarizes the thinking and--more importantly, the

intentions of Zionist strategists in the 1980's vis-à-vis the future of Israel and its enemy, the "Arab World".

Israel understands it can never destroy its enemies by conventional means because of the sheer number of the Arabs compared with that of the Jews and the size of the Arab territories that would have to be directly occupied by Israel,-- an impossible task to accomplish given the relatively small army Israel possesses. Therefore the only way to conquer the "Arab enemy" is to do it from within and, better still, to use his strength against him. Israel has identified certain fault lines within each of the Arab (and non-Arab) states that by virtue of

their Islamic character, represent the greatest threat to her eventually becoming the regional superpower she envisions herself. Long ago she planned to use these fault lines, represented by religious, cultural, linguistic and ethnic differences between the various peoples, and what must be remembered when forming an understanding of the present situation is that it is akin to planting a tree in that it takes time before the fruits are harvested.

Israel wants to accomplish two things in the next 30 year--(1) that "Eretz Y'Israel--the "land of Israel" as it is referred to by Jews--eventually encompass the area west of the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea, and (2) it wants to be a super power with imperial aims. The Zionists made this clear back in 1980 when they wrote in the very prescient essay "**Israel's Strategy for the 1980s**" that --

"Dispersal of the (Arab) population is therefore a domestic strategic aim of the highest order; otherwise, we shall cease to exist within any borders. Judea, Samaria and the Galilee are our sole guarantee for national existence, and if we do not become the majority in the mountain areas, we shall not rule in the country and we shall be like the Crusaders, who lost this country which was not theirs anyhow, and in which they were foreigners to begin with. Rebalancing the country demographically, strategically and economically is the highest and most central aim today. Taking hold of the mountain watershed from Beersheba to the Upper Galilee is the national aim generated by the major strategic consideration which is settling the mountainous part of the country that is empty of Jews today. Prof. Yuval Neeman, "Samaria--The Basis for Israel's Security," Ma'arakhot 272-273, May/June 1980

In the 1980s the mountains of the West Bank (referred to by Israel as "Judea and Samaria") were empty of Jewish settlements. Therefore plans were put in motion starting in the late 1970's to accelerate the building of settlements in the mountains of the West Bank. Today Israel has over 600,000 illegal settlers in the West Bank, up from a mere 1100 settlers in 1972. The settlement issue has always been a sticking point in all negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis. During the George H. W. Bush administration, particularly from 1990-92, tensions over settlements so severely strained ties between Israel and its American ally that direct communication between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel ground to a halt. A war of words between George H.W. Bush and then-Israeli PM Yitzhak Shamir was the norm on the evening news worldwide to the point that Bush declared the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank an "obstacle to peace" and threatened withholding \$10,000,000,000.00 in loan guarantees promised to the Jewish state. When asked about this by a reporter, Shamir's reaction was prophetic-- "I will have his job" meaning that G. H.W. Bush--at the time running for re-election against Bill Clinton--would not stand a chance. In doing so, Shamir made it clear to the world who really is in charge of America's political system, and he was proven correct when Bush lost to Clinton, even though he was just coming out of a victorious war against Iraq with 87% approval of the American people.

Shamir himself warned the Arab delegates to the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference that talks will not succeed if they focused primarily on territory. Shamir came to the conference with the intention of keeping the West Bank and Gaza forever under Israel's control. He admitted to a Ma'ariv reporter that he planned to drag negotiations on for 10 years and "in the mean time we would have settled one-half million souls in Judea and Samaria." Remember that this was in 1992 as reported by the LA Times when the Israeli settlers in the West Bank were

around 10,000. It is clear that no matter who is in control of the Israeli government from the Right or the Left they are all committed to carrying out the same plan of populating the "Mountains of Judea and Samaria" as their Zionist plan has suggested.

Fast forward now to November 15, 2010 with a U.S. President Obama makes Israel on offer she cannot refuse--the U.S. taxpayer subsidized "sale" to Israel of 20 F-35's stealth bombers, a deal providing Israel with unmatched capability of striking anywhere in the region. However, contingent upon this was the stipulation that Israel must freeze West Bank settlement expansion for 90 days, and what was an offer too good to turn down became exactly that, as Israel refused the offer. The lesson learned from this is that building the settlements is more important to Israel and their national interests than getting the F-35's to strengthen their offensive capacity. Keep in mind that this stipulation on the part of the U.S. was not for a permanent freeze, but only for a mere 90 days.

It is clear that Israel will not allow a Palestinian State West of the River Jordan and--given the fact that the rest of the civilized, enlightened world is day by day increasingly recognizing a Palestinian State West of the Jordan, therefore Israel must have a plan of action--now, and not tomorrow, but yesterday. Furthermore, given that America obviously can no longer drag negotiations out with Israel and play the role of designated bodyguard for the Jewish state, therefore the Zionist strategy in the 1980's must go into action before the Palestinians get a chance to go through with their plans of having the world recognize their state West of the Jordan.

Let's look at the footprints of that strategy in 2011. "The best that can happen for Israeli interests in Iraq is the dissolution of Iraq into a Shi'ite state, a Sunni state and the separation of the Kurdish part" (Ha'aretz 6/2/1982). Again, remember that this was written in 1982 in one of Israel's biggest newspapers and was a mere repetition of the menu outlined in various Zionist strategy papers, including "Israel's Strategy for the 1980s". The picture in Iraq today is not some accident, coincidence or happenstance, for--just as a house is built according to the blueprints drawn up well-ahead of the first nail being driven by a construction worker, what we see in Iraq today it is exactly what was planned not just years ago, but decades. Can anyone dispute that picture?

Now, let us take a look at Egypt. Although not discussed in mainstream (i.e. Zionist controlled) news, Egypt was the strongest ally to the Palestinian Authority and the main mediator between it and Israel any time help was needed. Egypt was the only Arab regime that can talk to Hamas on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. In terms of putting pressure on the only substantive Palestinian negotiating body--the Palestinian National Authority--Israel would love to see a regime in Egypt not as friendly to Israel as Mubarak was and at the same time more sympathetic to Hamas, thus placing the PNA between the jaws of the pincer to force them back to the negotiating circus for another 10 years. Better yet, to force the PNA out of power in order to start the next phase in annexing the West Bank. Then comes the all-too-predictable--regime or policy change in Jordan, which would inevitably halt the push for Palestinian statehood and thus stall talks and drag out the status quo for another 10 years, during which time Israeli settlers in the West bank increase their numbers to over a million and a half, making it impossible for a Palestinian state to be viable because of the constantly-heard rational concerning "facts on the ground". Thus, a different solution altogether is then required in which the most plausible

and acceptable solution to the problem would be population transfer from West Bank of the river Jordan to the East Bank, where the future "Palestinian State" would then be setup.

Those who doubt such a scenario is part of Israel's blueprint for the region should take another look at what the aforementioned "Strategy for the 1980's" has to say about it--

"There is no chance that Jordan will continue to exist in its present structure for a long time, and Israel's policy, both in war and in peace, ought to be directed at the liquidation of Jordan under the present regime and the transfer of power to the Palestinian majority. Changing the regime east of the river will also cause the termination of the problem of the territories densely populated with Arabs west of the Jordan. Whether in war or under conditions of peace, emigration from the territories and economic demographic freeze in them are the guarantees for the coming change on both banks of the river, and we ought to be active in order to accelerate this process in the nearest future. It is not possible to go on living in this country in the present situation without separating the two nations, the Arabs to Jordan and the Jews to the areas west of the river. Genuine coexistence and peace will reign over the land only when the Arabs understand that without Jewish rule between the Jordan and the sea they will have neither existence nor security. A nation of their own and security will be theirs only in Jordan."

In short, Israel planned this in the 1980's but never had the opportunity to implement it. Conditions were never ripe (as they are now) for the execution of this plan. So far they are succeeding accordingly, but will the revolution in Egypt delay their plans or accelerate them? It is all dependent upon the way the regime in Egypt treats Hamas and the PNA. If Al Jazeera, which has scored many points with the young people

of Egypt and the Arab street, continues to be used in advancing the agenda of the other side and continues its incitement of the Arab street (and especially with the continuation of its attacks on the PNA) then the Israel's Strategy for the 1980's will indeed accelerate. The incitement of the Arab Street has caused the majority of Arab intellectuals and so-called "thinkers" to join in on the hysteria because no one wants to be seen as if they were against the "winds of change". Israel can create a lukewarm atmosphere with Egypt which may serve both governments' interests of the "changing" times which would allow Israel more time to continue its settlement building because no one on the Arab side would dare push for negotiations with Israel. Therefore Israel can cry to the world that it doesn't have a "peace partner" on the Arab side. In the mean time "facts on the ground" will continue to be on Israel's side until there comes a time when the Arab street will be ready to accept Israel's plan for the Middle East after it has been broken-in like a wild horse.

Must the Zionist plan for the Middle East succeed? Of course not, but it requires an Arab plan to fight it, which-- unfortunately there is none at this time. It also requires a Palestinian plan to combat the Israeli plan, but Palestinian politicians and their Arab counterparts continue down the road mapped out for them by Israel and its tool, the USA.

We must learn one thing in this game, and without it there can be no possibility of victory: We cannot win by playing THEIR game by THEIR rules. Rather, we must adopt our own rules of engagement, forcing them to change theirs.

Dr. Hesham Tillawi, USA February, 2011

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BZN1-NdX1E>

NOTE THE DATE OF THIS ARTICLE!

New cybervirus found in Japan: Stuxnet designed to attack off-line servers via USB memory sticks, 5 October 2010

The Yomiuri Shimbun Stuxnet, a computer virus designed to attack servers isolated from the Internet, such as at power plants, has been confirmed on 63 personal computers in Japan since July, according to major security firm Symantec Corp.

The virus does not cause any damage online, but once it enters an industrial system, it can send a certain program out of control.

Symantec says the virus reaches the servers via USB memory sticks, and warns against the careless use of such devices.

Systems at power plants, gas stations and water facilities are not connected to the Internet to protect them from cyber-attacks. A Symantec engineer who has analyzed the virus said it was made using advanced technology, and it is highly likely a well-funded organization, not an individual, produced it. The virus has spread throughout the globe via the Internet.

After Stuxnet finds its way onto an ordinary computer via the Internet, it hides there, waiting for a USB memory stick to be connected to the computer, when it transfers itself to the memory stick. When the USB device is then connected to a computer linked to an isolated server, it can enter the system and take control of it.

As computers that harbor Stuxnet do not operate strangely, the virus can be transferred to a memory stick inadvertently.

According to the security company, the virus is designed to target a German-made program often used in systems managing water, gas and oil pipelines. The program is used at public utilities around the world, including in Japan.

The virus could cause such systems to act erratically, and it could take months to restore them to normal. The 63 infected computers found in Japan were likely infected sometime after June.

According to the company, about 60 percent of the computers that have been infected with the virus were discovered in Iran. Since September, about 30,000 computers there have been found to be infected with the virus. The country's Industry and Mines Ministry has called the virus an electronic act of war.

Some computers at the Iranian Bushehr nuclear power plant, which is scheduled to begin operation in October, have been infected with the virus. A supervisor at the plant said the virus has not damaged the facility's main computer system and would not affect its planned opening.

In Japan, no public utilities have been affected by the virus. Nevertheless, the Cabinet Office's National Information Security Center has urged electric power companies to exercise extreme care when using USB devices, and to scan any programs that may have been tampered with.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T101004003493.htm>

Nazis Punished Nazis For Mistreating jews

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEhkwK4VDTM>