Israeli officials are gearing up for an intense diplomatic battle in New York in September over the Palestinian Authority’s defiant bid to secure full membership in the United Nations at its annual Opening Assembly. Both parties have been making their respective cases to world leaders and the results could have huge implications for Israel and the entire region for years to come.

After months of uncertainty over exactly what the Palestinians would be demanding, PA officials finally confirmed in mid-August that they will be making a request for admittance into the United Nations as a member state.

The petition for recognition of Palestinian sovereignty within the pre-1967 lines is to be formally presented to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on September 20, just as the world body convenes to begin its autumn session. PA leaders expect Ban to then submit the request to the Security Council, where they claim to already have the support of most members but must wait to see if the United States blocks the measure with its veto power.

The decision came after weeks of intense internal debate among senior PA figures, who were reportedly split over whether to seek maximal demands or step back a bit to ease pressure from Washington and other quarters. But PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas is now set to personally table the “historic initiative” and let the chips fall where they may.

Israel adamantly opposes the Palestinian move, saying a unilateral declaration of independence would breach all prior agreements signed by the two sides and the accepted international framework for resolving the conflict, as well as deal a serious blow to the peace process.

In recent months, Jerusalem has been lobbying world leaders to resist the PA effort to bypass direct talks, and a number of Western democracies have publicly pledged to oppose the move. The Obama administration privately warned PA officials that such a measure would be met with a US veto in the Security Council and that other consequences may follow. But Abbas has refused to give ground.
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ’s United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

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Understanding Israel
October 1st: 9am - 12.30pm
Hope Community Fellowship
2929 Cheney Hwy
Titusville, FL 32780
Larry Booth & John Small

Virginia Beach, VA
For Such a Time as This
October 2nd: 2.30pm - 6pm
Simon Family JCC
5000 Corporate Woods Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

Virginia Beach, VA
Corrie Remembers
October 3rd: 7.30pm
Simulation JCC
5000 Corporate Woods Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Performance by Susie Sandager

Jerusalem/Ein Gedi, Israel
Israel, A Light to the Nations
2011 Feast of Tabernacles
October 13th-18th, 2011
Int’l Convention Center
Jerusalem, Israel
with Special Guest Angus Buchan

Dayton, OH
Daryl Hedding
Oct. 28/29th: 6.30pm/9am
Beavercreek Church of the Nazarene
1850 N. Fairfield Rd.
Beavercreek, OH 45432

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Seated in Heavenly Places

Dr Juergen Buehler

According to Ephesians 6:12, the real battle between truth and deception takes place in the heavenly battleground of prayer. Yet these ‘heavenly places’ are not just places of conflict but also of blessing. Paul states to the church in Ephesus that it is in the heavenly places where God has established His throne and where Jesus was lifted up at his resurrection. “He set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 1:20)

Heavenly Places

It is in the heavenly places where we find the unrestricted and glorious presence of God. Sometimes, believers were granted the privilege to have a visual glimpse into this realm. “Stephen saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55).” What a glorious sight it must have been!

It is these heavenly places that all our spiritual needs are being met. Every blessing for your walk with Christ, everything you need to fulfill the call of God on your life, every possible blessing for your nation, your family and for your life, can be found in these heavenly places. The word of God declares that our Father “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

It is a realm of unlimited resources.

Heavenly Perspective

Now the Apostle Paul makes an amazing statement when he explains that this heavenly place of light and abundance is not just reserved for God and His angels. He declares that God has “raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).

Please note that Paul describes us as “seated” there. You are not only there if you feel an anointing for a short time in a worship service and exclaim “this feels like heaven.” The truth is we are seated there all the time, even if we do not feel it. It is a reality which we have to accept by faith.

Therefore, as we gather in unity in prayer each Wednesday I have great confidence that our prayers will be answered, because it is in the presence of God that all spiritual blessings are found. I encourage you to see yourself seated in heaven 24 hours a day; it will lift your perspective regarding the things God has called you to and impact every decision you make here on earth.

Indeed, Moses gained courage and endurance by “seeing Him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27). His walk before God was determined by his awareness of heavenly realities. May the Lord help us to pray and act from this heavenly perspective!

Sign up for latest project news and Isaiah 62 Prayer Alerts from Israel at: www.icej.org

Dr. Juergen Buehler serves as ICEJ Interim Executive Director and former International Director. He lives with his wife Vesna and four children in Jerusalem.
For various reasons, Israel has an unusually high number of disabled citizens. Around 650,000 people, or almost 10% of the Israeli population, suffer from some degree of physical disability, according to the Israeli Sports Association for the Disabled.

Some were Israeli natives born with a handicap, while others were injured during their service as IDF soldiers during the nation’s many conflicts. Some are random victims of the numerous terrorist attacks launched against innocent civilians over the decades, or of the country’s many road accidents. Still others are disabled immigrants who moved to Israel for the advanced medical treatments it has to offer.

With such a large portion of the population suffering from disabilities it is crucial to have a facility for their rehabilitation. That is the purpose behind the Israel Sports Center for the Disabled in Ramat Gan. Boaz Kremer, the newly appointed director of ISCD, is currently ranked number 14 on the list of the world’s best wheelchair tennis players. He also holds the silver medal in tennis doubles from the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, and is currently preparing for the upcoming Paralympic Games in London next summer.

Kremer insists that the first goal of the center is to better integrate people with disabilities into Israeli society.

“We have more than 60 years of experience in the field and have learned that there is a very strong link between sports participation and social integration,” he explained. “Many of us have used sports as a platform for gaining self-confidence and becoming productive members of society, instead of a burden.”

Kremer is a stunning example of what the center can do for people with physical disabilities. A graduate of the medical school at Tel Aviv University, he is married and the father of a young daughter.

“As much as we are happy to see our members win sport events, we are even happier to see our people succeed in society. That in itself is more important than the athletic side,” he said.

Israel’s first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, learned of Guttmann’s work early on and invited him to Israel in 1949 in order to seek his advice on how to rehabilitate soldiers severely injured during the War of Independence. Guttmann’s first suggestion was to start a sports program, claiming it had been extremely helpful in providing motivation for the wounded from World War II.

In 1956, Israel was drawn into a second war in Sinai. In addition, a large number of Israeli children were born with polio in those years. Thus, the growing demand led to the creation of just such a sports program for the disabled.

What started out as a very small initiative in 1960 has since developed into one of the largest facilities for disabled athletes in the world, currently serving more than 2,000 members. Today, between 70-to-80% of all medals that Israelis have won in the Paralympics since 1960 have been carried home by athletes connected to the Israel Sports Center for the Disabled in Ramat Gan.

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He is especially proud of the unique model that the center has become.

“It’s like nothing else in the world,” he enthused. “I know many international athletes that I have met on tours, and all of them envy us for having such a sport center.”

“The Ramat Gan center is a one-stop facility for disabled athletes... All they have to do is show up and we do the rest.”

One of the many people who have recovered from serious life blows thanks to the sports center is Asael Shabo. In 2002, when he was only eight years old, a Palestinian terrorist broke into his family’s house in the settlement of Itamar and killed his mother and three of his brothers. Asael managed to survive the attack but lost his right leg.

During his time in the hospital, he was invited to the center and after only a couple of swimming lessons developed a love for the sport. Ten years later, Asael is one of the best disabled swimmers in the world, currently holding the Israeli record for 50 meters freestyle. He is aiming to participate in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

A couple years ago, Asael also developed an interest in wheelchair basketball, and discipline and hard training have landed him a spot on the Israeli national basketball team.

Today, Asael lives with his father in Kedumim, in the Shomron, and spends a large part of his time practicing both swimming and basketball at the center near Tel Aviv.

When asked what the center has meant to him, Asael explained: “After the attack it was very hard for the surviving family to relate to one another... The center encouraged me during those hard times and helped me become wiser, to become an adult. The sports do something good for the body and the mind, which makes you smarter. You grow both physically and mentally.”

Despite the tremendous impact the center has had on many disabled athletes in Israel, it receives no government funding and is thus struggling financially. Around half of the budget is raised within Israel and the rest from donors worldwide. Kramer was grateful that Christians are becoming very strong advocates of the center, and noted in particular the sponsorship provided by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem over the past seven years.

ICEJ AID works to assist the disadvantaged and needy throughout the land of Israel. Support our work online at: www.icejusa.org/aid

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

ICEJ Advocacy in the US Capitol

The ICEJ’s Washington D.C. office - led by US Director, Susan Michael - has been busy over the early summer months engaging in a number of opportunities to mobilize Christians for Israel.

National Day of Prayer - May 5th

While many Christian leaders were in town for the National Day of Prayer in May, the ICEJ helped host a lunch meeting with Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ). An Evangelical Christian, Franks is Co-Chair of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus and took the opportunity to brief a wide range of pastors and ministry leaders on upcoming pro-Israel initiatives on Capitol Hill.

Embassy of Israel Solidarity Event - May 6th

The ICEJ played a lead role in planning and organizing the 10th Annual Christian Solidarity Event at the Embassy of Israel, which we co-hosted with a dozen other ministries. The event included an additional afternoon panel on the Delegitimization of Israel, which was moderated by US Director Susan Michael.

Jerusalem Day Prayer Breakfast - June 1st

Less than a month later, the ICEJ teamed up with the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus once more for a ‘Jerusalem Day’ Prayer Breakfast. Former Congressman Dr. Dave Weldon, joined Susan Michael and Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld of the National Synagogue in speaking on the significance of Jerusalem to Christians and Jews. The Prayer Breakfast was followed by a press conference on current legislation to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s undivided capital.

Learn more at: www.icejusa.org/jerusalem.

CUFI Summit - July 18th

Finally, Susan Michael represented the ICEJ at the annual Washington Summit hosted by Christians United for Israel, speaking alongside Gary Bauer of American Values, and Jeff Mendelsohn from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Their topic was ‘Israel 101’ and the room was filled to capacity with a wide variety of people seeking greater understanding of the basics of the Mid East conflict.
There is not one part of the world today that is not in some kind of upheaval. Europe has literally gone bankrupt and as one EU country after another has descended into financial chaos. More will follow!

- America is drowning in debt and embroiled in two wars.
- The Arab world is engulfed in protests as millions attempt finally to break free from totalitarian dictatorships.
- Africa continues to struggle with poverty, war, famine and inept governments.
- Then there are the alarming images of London burning, as lawless youths rampage through its streets.
- Even Israel has been beset by protesters who have had enough of the outrageously high costs of basic food and housing.
- Add to this a nature that is seemingly out of control, ravaging almost every part of the globe.

The chaos is everywhere and with it comes great risks! Germany taught us that out of such chaos a strong man arose in the 1930s, through a democratic process, who promised order, hope, prosperity and peace. He turned out to be a tyrant, without equal in human history, and in the end destroyed 53 million lives. Could the global chaos facing the world today produce a similar figure?

Indeed, the world is longing for a leader who will extract it from its ever growing woes.

The economic meltdown threatens everyone. Without a stable financial order, there can be no future for the average citizen. Thus economic stability is the major issue facing the world. In response, economists and politicians are beginning to call for a one world currency and a stronger form of global government. Just last year, Russia’s president presented a global currency coin to the international community! To be sure, he was not playing.

On the other hand, the Bible warns that days of great shaking will beset the world, to remove the flimsy foundations upon which humanity has built its plans and systems. These shakings will also involve the natural elements. Men’s hearts will fail them! The Bible also warns of unprecedented lawlessness. All of this comes because the world is weighted down with sin and rebellion against God.

This same Bible also warns that out of world chaos a global leader will emerge who initially will achieve great success and thereby gain the allegiance of the unsuspecting masses. He will bring the world to ruin just as Hitler did. We would do well to place our feet upon the foundation of God’s Word. Anything less will leave us on sinking sand!
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ICEJ WORLDWIDE
WORD FROM JERUSALEM
Diplomatic Dance

The Palestinian decision to forge ahead with its unilateral plans at the UN marks a clear failure for American diplomacy. For months now, the Obama administration has tried to persuade Abbas to abandon the move and return to direct negotiations with Israel. Washington’s strategy was to combine warnings of a breakdown in bilateral relations with the incentive of concessions extracted from Israel.

In his May 19 speech at the State Department, US President Barack Obama surprised Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu with his call for resuming talks based on the pre-1967 lines, a long-standing PA demand. But Obama’s blunt handling of the Israeli premier had little impact on the Palestinians, who only began asking for more.

Meantime, Netanyahu concluded the only way to guarantee a US veto in the Security Council was to give Obama further inducements to offer the Palestinians if they would come back to the negotiating table. So, Netanyahu quietly offered to accept the 1967 lines as a framework for talks, but conditioned it on the Palestinians also recognizing Israel as a Jewish state.

The package deal was based on Obama’s subsequent speech before the AIPAC Policy Conference in which he clarified that talks over the future borders needed to take into account “realities on the ground” – a euphemism for large Jewish settlement blocs that Israel hopes to retain in any final agreement.

Obama’s AIPAC address also included a key assurance glaringly missing from the State Department speech – that Israel should be accepted as a Jewish state, a formula which would effectively negate the Palestinian claim to a right of return for millions of refugees.

Israel’s flexibility was not reciprocated by the Palestinians, however. Abbas made clear in a recent New York Times opinion column that his goal in this diplomatic confrontation is to use a favorable UN resolution as a springboard for an intensified international legal campaign against Israel, thus deepening the conflict rather than resolving it.

Nevertheless, Netanyahu has warned Western leaders that a UN vote in favor of statehood would harden the Palestinian position for years to come and make it extremely difficult to negotiate a peace agreement. His hope is that he has done enough to ensure a US veto of a Palestinian statehood resolution in the UN Security Council. This would leave the PA with the next-best option of requesting General Assembly acceptance of “Palestine” as a non-member state, with borders along the pre-1967 lines and Jerusalem as its capital.

While non-binding, such a result would bolster the legitimacy of Palestinian territorial claims against Israel, among other effects. Yet at the same time, the PA could also find its relations with Washington in the deep freeze for the foreseeable future, while handing Israel the validation it needs to take unilateral actions of its own.

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem

Key Issues

Palestinian Statehood

Rather than responding to Israel’s efforts to negotiate peace, the Palestinian Authority is abandoning the peace process and engaging in diplomatic warfare against the Jewish state in a bid to use the leverage of the international community to impose a settlement on Israel.

Implications for Israel

The most significant challenge for Israel is that international recognition of Palestinian statehood would effectively endorse the declared Palestinian position on a number of ‘final status’ issues, including the borders of Israel, and the status of Jerusalem. Since Israel cannot accept these positions without undermining its own national security, the conflict is likely to intensify.

Implications for the Palestinians

Aside from the obvious risk of civil war between Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah faction and the rejectionist wing of Hamas, there is a real possibility that the PA could lose significant sums of international funding that are paid out on the assumption that Palestinian civic society is unable to support itself and its population is ‘stateless’ due to the Israeli ‘occupation.’

Implications for the United States

If President Obama does not choose to veto the Palestinian bid for statehood, the US will be complicit in an illegal declaration that violates international law. Furthermore the US will bear spiritual responsibility for seeking forcibly to divide the land of Israel (Joel 1:1-3) and attempting to remove Jerusalem from the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:14). This is a very serious decision.

Learn more at: www.icejusa.org/statehood