

## How the Turkish-Israeli marriage was arranged

The new-found tactical alliance between Israel and Turkey was kicked off in New York City on April 27, at a gala celebration sponsored by the Quincentennial Foundation. The occasion was the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Sephardic (Spanish) Jews finding safe haven in the Turkish Ottoman empire. "For more than 500 years, the Jews of Turkey have lived peacefully in a land which is 99% Muslim," the literature of the foundation gushes. "Turkey is a historical example of people of differing creeds living harmoniously under one flag . . . a bridge between East and West."

Formed in 1989, the Quincentennial Foundation says it seeks to "foster understanding between Jews and Muslim" Turks, especially since the 20,000 members of the Turkish Jewish community continue to be a strong element in Turkish society, particularly banking and the news media.

A measure of the group's importance, was the presence Turkish President Turgut Özal at the April 27 event, in order to receive an award along with Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel, from the hands of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

### Target: Iraq, Syria, Iran . . .

According to the organizers of the celebration, the main purpose of the foundation has been to organize the Turkish-Israeli alignment, which first emerged publicly in the Gulf War against Iraq. Its objective is to foster an increasing strategic understanding between Turkey and Israel against such ostensibly common enemies as Syria, Arab terrorism, and Muslim fundamentalism, its officers report. A main focus is nuclear-armed Central Asia, which western propagandists claim is ripe for Iranian "fundamentalist" takeover. Syria and Iraq's alleged sponsorship of the Kurdish terrorism against Turkey and Arab terrorism against Israel, are also decried, with discussion centering on joint Israeli-Turkish military operations to eliminate Syria once and for all.

American activists in the foundation include Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations; Howard Squadron, the former director of the American Jewish Congress; David Harris of the American Jewish Committee; Abraham Sofaer, the former counsel to the Reagan State Department; Anti-

Defamation League chairman Abraham Foxman; Stuart Eizenstat, the former top Carter aide; and Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), an important Zionist lobby mouthpiece.

The Turkish Jews who formed the foundation, led by businessman Jak Kamhi, are largely drawn from the Turkish B'nai B'rith lodges. In August 1990, Kamhi led a delegation to an international convention of B'nai B'rith in Dallas, Texas which secured B'nai B'rith endorsement of the foundation, and a resolution praising Turkey for harboring Sephardic Jews. As the convention was going on, Israeli envoys such as former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres were meeting with Özal to plan Turkish-Israeli collaboration in the U.S.-led drive for war on Iraq.

### Made in Washington

Among the foundation's main objectives, from a Turkish standpoint, has been to obtain the aid of the U.S. Zionist lobby in combatting Armenian propaganda against Turkey—a rather ambitious objective in that the Armenian lobby historically has worked very closely with the Zionist lobby. To that end, Heath Lowery, at a seminar following the recent gala, praised Ottoman policy toward the Jews, while American Jewish Committee operative George Gruen explained that the World War I Turkish slaughter of Armenians must be seen in the context of the Russian control of the Armenians.

The objective of the foundation from an Israeli and U.S. standpoint has been to rope in Turkey as an expendable, regional military instrument of the new world order. Simultaneous with the 1989 formation of the foundation, Turgut Özal hired former assistant secretary of defense Richard Perle to advise the Turkish government. Perle, who has frequently been accused of being an agent of the Mossad (the Israeli intelligence service), formed a firm called International Advisers, Inc. for this purpose, along with Morris Amitay, the former leader of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. Key figures in this network have been Zionist lobby mouthpiece Rep. Steven Solarz (D-N.Y.), and also former Perle aide Frank Gaffney, who recently has led a propaganda campaign against Germany for cutting off military aid to Turkey.

To ensure high-level mediation of this new relationship, senior Turkish officials associated with Özal joined the new foundation, including Fuat Bayramoglu, a former ambassador; Ogan Soysal, an Özal adviser also reportedly close to the U.S. government; Nezeit Demirkent, the owner of the newspaper *Dunya*; and Coskun Kirca, a former ambassador with reported close ties to the U.S. secret services.—*Joseph Brewda*