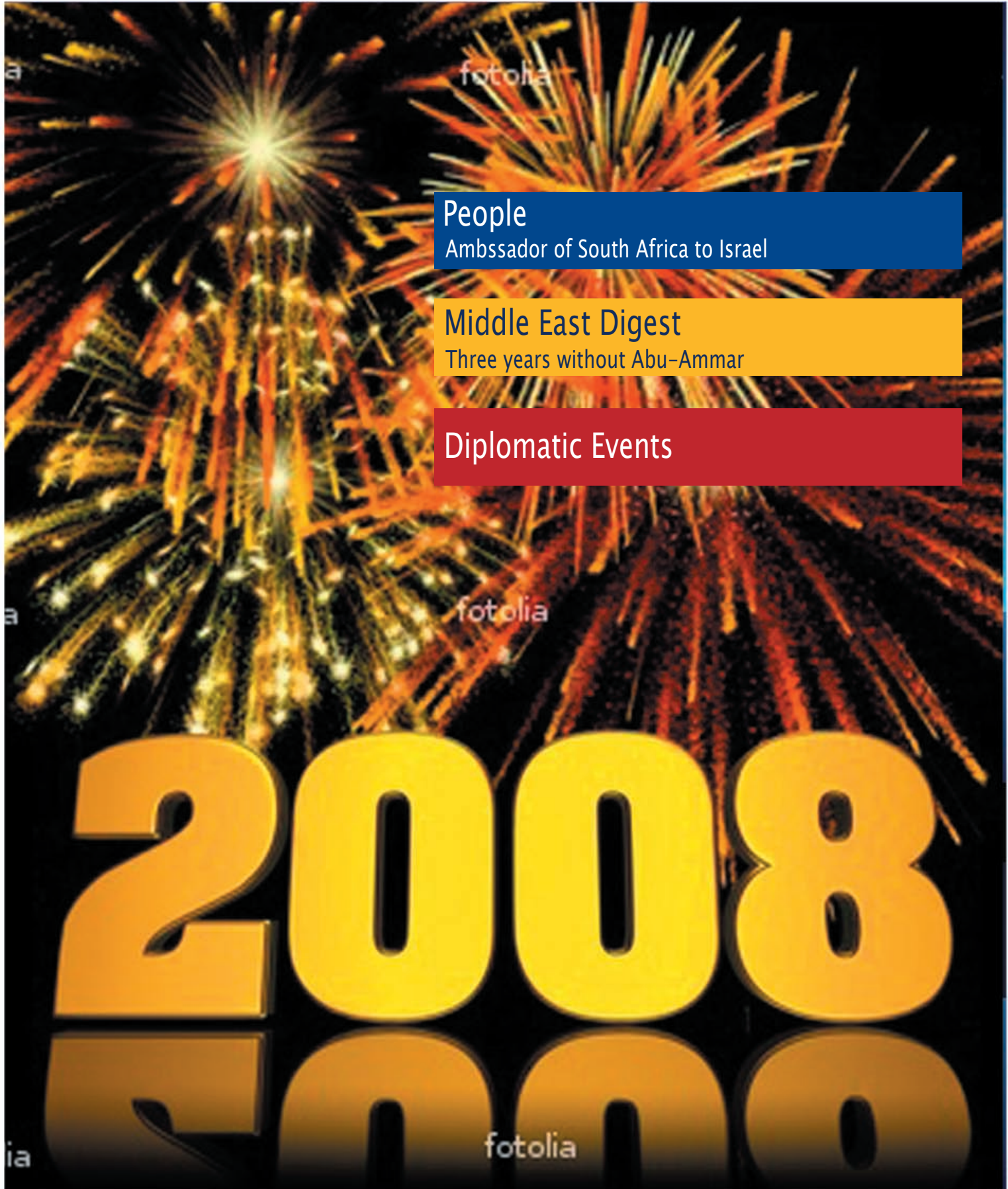




# The Diplomatic Club

December 2007 **Magazine**



## People

Ambassador of South Africa to Israel

## Middle East Digest

Three years without Abu-Ammar

## Diplomatic Events

2008

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Dear Friends,

2007 was an eventful year, during which the Middle-East –and the rest of the world. This year is now approaching its end. Despite the rapid end of the purely military phase of the Palestinian Conflict, the conflict is still raging, claiming too many lives. In Israel, the signing of the Roadmap has not yet generated the hoped for peace. We wish the Middle-East an active 2008 year focused on peace and development, where hatred dissolves and harmony blooms.

To our readers, as always we would like to offer our best wishes for 2008:

*may your health be obvious (and need no discussion)*  
*may your family relations be warm*  
*may your friends be loyal*  
*may your enemies become your friends (and those who don't, get lost)*  
*may your spam be filtered*  
*may your Emails be answered*  
*may your papers get published*  
*may your wisdom deserve the approval of Confucius,*  
*and your folly the praise of Erasmus*  
*may your power get shared,*  
*your wealth be free from greed*  
*and your poverty from envy*  
*may we communicate fruitfully across cultures*  
*so that our horizons widen*  
*and reason replaces violence*

The Diplomatic Club Magazine requests the pleasure to publish opinions, discussions and articles written by Ambassadors. We are looking forward to develop this idea.

As the 2007 is now over, it is time to go back to work about new services for coming 2008 year. And the Diplomatic Club will work harder than ever to bring its members new and improved services and events. To keep up with the new deals and discount organized by the Diplomatic Club for its members.

**The Diplomatic Club and myself wish you a successful New Year.**

Yours sincerely,  
Julia Verdel  
General Manager  
And the Editorial Team

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**Cover Illustration:** Fotolia



# South Africa

## Major General Fumanekile Fumie Gqiba Ambassador of South Africa to Israel

by Neil Sandler

This reporter interviewed South Africa's Ambassador to Israel, Major General Fumanekile Fumie Gqiba in the stylish Top Tower of Dizengoff Center. The Ambassador himself confided that he would prefer to move the Embassy to a free-standing building and outside of the congested Dizengoff Center Area. The Ambassador's office has a magnificent view of Tel Aviv, sweeping to the Sea. Today there are warm relations between South Africa and Israel, a good deal of this because of the efforts of Ambassador Gqiba. Ambassador Gqiba is not a career diplomat, as he likes to point out, he is from the Defense Force. The South African President had wanted to make a dramatic change at the time of Gqiba's posting, and Gqiba was appointed the first black African from South Africa to be Ambassador, from within the ranks of the African National Congress. The Ambassador's perceptions of Israel changed a good deal after he came here to be Ambassador. For one thing, he said he has become more sympathetic to the Israeli point of view. He claims a major objective of the role of South African Ambassador in Israel is to encourage dialogue between Jews and Arabs. The Ambassador tries to "strike a balance" in his role of expressing his government's policy in Israel, and in trying to get away from any "rigid ideological" position and not to be too "one-sided". The Ambassador brought a then ruling-party Likud delegation to South Africa to meet with government officials in October, 2004, in the Ambassador's first year. This was an ideological change in the government's stance, which is more oriented to the Left side of the political spectrum. He then brought Ehud Olmert, then Minister of Trade and Industry, to South Africa to meet with President Mbeki the following year. After, he brought an African

National Congress delegation to Israel to meet with government officials here. The South African Minister of Trade and Industry, Mandisi Mphahlawu came here to reciprocate, and met with Minister Olmert. The Chief Scientist at Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labor visited South Africa this year. This October a group of South African Mayors and Councilors will come to Israel on a delegation to meet their Israeli counterparts, Non-governmental Organization officials and others. The Ambassador says South Africa tries to influence what goes on in the world through organizations such as the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Nations, instead of going out on its own as a peacemaker. The Ambassador maintains that South Africa is involved in "constructive engagement" in the Middle East region.

**The influential South African Jewish community in Israel** is of major importance in South African-Israel ties. The South African Embassy works closely with Telfad, the South African immigrant organization in Israel, in maintaining close contact with the Jews who have immigrated to Israel from South Africa, an increasing number of whom are applying to regain a South African passport for dual citizenship. The Ambassador also mentions the fact that many of the finest doctors in Israel are immigrants who received their medical education in South African universities.

The Ambassador states that morally, Jews and black South Africans have the same background, both suffered from oppression, so they should be "speaking the same language". The Jews in South Africa were central in opposing the status quo of apartheid in South Africa. The Ambassador says Jews and South Africans should be standing side by



side in "establishing peace, stability and human rights." He says both nations share a strong identification with religion, both African National Congress – led South African and the State of Israel, born with great religious feeling. South Africa looks toward Israel to help in the advancement of technological education in South Africa to break the "vicious cycle of poverty."

The Ambassador speaks of the vital importance of the mineral products, especially coal and the diamonds, that South Africa exports to Israel. Overall South African exports to Israel totaled U.S.\$ 669.3 million C.I.F. during 2006, an increase of 10.18% over the previous year. Israel's exports to South Africa totaled U.S.\$288.2 million F.O.B. during 2006, an increase of 12.38% over the previous year. Tourism between South Africa and Israel is growing, with almost 16,000 Israelis visiting South Africa in 2006. The Ambassador is encouraging South African Airlines to open a route to Israel, currently the airline is sharing a route with El Al, but the Ambassador

claims fares are too high.

The Ambassador has four children, two of his children are here in Israel, a son, Athie, 15, and a daughter, Soso, 12, who both attend the American School. The Ambassador's wife, Vuyo, is very active in the International Women's Group. The Ambassador's hobbies include golf, with both other diplomats as well as the local members. The Ambassador has been extremely gratified with the high level of safety from street crime in Israel, especially in thinking of the welfare of his children. He appreciates the tremendous freedom of movement there is for children, even late at night. He and his family are also extremely impressed with the high quality of food. They enjoy going to Israeli weddings and find it unusual that they are celebrated almost any day in the week. They enjoy visiting the holy sites, the Bible has become more meaningful for the Ambassador since he has visited some of them. The Ambassador maintains strong personal and diplomatic connections with Ambassadors from other African countries as well as from other key countries, mentioning specifically, South American countries such as Brazil, as well as India and China. The Ambassador says that the level of respect held by other countries for your country can be seen by who attends or does not attend the National Day Celebrations, the last South African one was held at the Dan Panorama in Tel Aviv.

In addressing a widely-held perception of high-crime in South Africa, the Ambassador states that while crime is found all over the world, the crime rate is higher in new democracies. What South Africa is especially anxious to address firstly, is why theft is so often accompanied by violence. This is the most pressing issue that the government and institutions are trying to solve first. The neighboring states to South Africa have been going through economic, political and social chaos since the end of colonialism. The Ambassador says South Africa was the last country to achieve democratic independence. The African National Congress party is the longest-existing political party in Africa. In the rest of Africa "things have gone wrong", dictators have come who have "wrecked" the countries. South Africa,

because it is so rich in natural resources, has been tampered with by criminals from outside, who are hard to get rid of, here the Ambassador refers to organized crime.

In talking about a growing influence of China in Africa, the Ambassador says China was very supportive of the African National Congress during the battle to end apartheid, South Africa now owes them some gratitude for this. However, from any foreign power, South Africa will not allow neo-colonialism now, where natural resources are being taken out of the country, with little or no economic return in investment. Recently President Mbeki warned against this, but in general for all countries and international companies. The official policy is that manufacturing must be set up in South Africa in partnership. The South African government is working with the private sector to try to create new jobs to bring down the unemployment rate, trying to convince them to create more jobs instead of only focusing on maximization of profits in the present.

South Africa has been moving to change its economy towards privatization and other reforms, more gradually, so as to avoid danger of collapse, beginning with the stabilization under President Nelson Mandela, confounding the prophets of doom in much of the Western media, who predicted disaster in South Africa after the end of apartheid.

On the issue of Zimbabwe, the Ambassador maintains that South Africa cannot afford not to have a stable system stay in place in Zimbabwe, or they will be flooded with people escaping into South Africa (already 3 million illegal migrants from Zimbabwe are in South Africa, and many are involved in criminal activities.).He says the South African policy is to let the people in Zimbabwe change their system, it is not up to South Africa to install a new government in Zimbabwe.

Ambassador Fumanekile Fumie Gqiba (Major General) is a Social Scientist, he has specialized in Urban Development Planning, Strategic Management and International Relations in his career in



South Africa and abroad. He began his posting as Ambassador in Israel in June 2004. In the six years prior to that he was South African National Defense Force (SANDF) Military Chaplain in South Africa after being an SANDF Deputy Chaplain General and became an Honorary member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Chaplains Association. Before that he was involved in Housing and Urban Development programs and other government positions in South Africa. He was a Founder-Member of the African National Congress's Department of Religious Affairs in exile, in Lusaka, Zambia, before returning to South Africa with the end of Apartheid. The Ambassador has been awarded a number of South African Military Medals. The Ambassador attended Graduate School of Business at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, and has an MSc – In Urban Development Planning from the University College in London, and an MSc in Politics 3 – Political Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Ambassador would like to see South African President Mbeki visit Israel as soon as possible. The Ambassador thinks there is a misunderstanding about South Africa's relations with Iran. He says South Africa is always ready to engage other countries, because it is through engagement that we are able to solve our problems. By isolating them you are "helping to harden their hearts." The Ambassador maintains that South Africa is the only country able to sit down and talk with Iran at any time. He says that behind the scenes South Africa has played its role in encouraging Iran to engage with the IAEA, something most other important countries cannot do. South Africa sees its "engagement" with the adversaries of Israel as a "strategic move" that will one day benefit Israel in helping solve problems.

The Ambassador believes that "something will be decided" in a move towards peace for Israel in the next year. That is his optimistic vision for the New Year, along with an even greater improvement of relations between South Africa and Israel in 2008. ●

## South Africa

The Republic of South Africa (also known by other official names) is the country at the southern tip of Africa. It borders the Atlantic and Indian oceans and Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho, an independent enclave surrounded by South African territory. South Africa is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The South African economy is the largest in Africa and 24th largest in the world. Due to this it is the most socially, economically and infrastructurally developed country on the continent.

South Africa has experienced a different history from other nations in Africa because of early immigration from Europe and the strategic importance of the Cape Sea Route. European immigration began shortly after the Dutch East India Company founded a station at what would become Cape Town, in 1652. The closure of the Suez Canal during the Six-Day War exemplified its significance to East-West trade. The country's relatively developed infrastructure made its mineral wealth available and important to Western interests, particularly throughout the late nineteenth century and, with international competition and rivalry, during the Cold War. South Africa is ethnically diverse, with the largest Caucasian, Indian, and racially mixed communities in Africa. Black South Africans, who speak nine officially recognised languages, and many more dialects, account for slightly less than 80% of the population.

Racial strife between the white minority and the black majority has played a large part in South Africa's history and politics, culminating in apartheid, which was instituted in 1948 by the National Party (although segregation existed before that time). The laws that defined apartheid began to be repealed or abolished by the National Party in 1990, after a long and sometimes violent struggle (including economic sanctions from the international community) by the Black majority as well as many White, Coloured, and Indian South Africans.

Several philosophies and ideologies have developed in South Africa, including ubuntu (the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity) and Jan Smuts's holism.

Regular elections have been held for almost a century; but the majority of South Africans were not enfranchised until 1994.

South Africa is often called the «Rainbow Nation», a term coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and later adopted by then President Nelson Mandela. Mandela used the term «Rainbow Nation» as a metaphor to describe the country's newly developing multicultural diversity after segregationist apartheid ideology. The country's socially progressive policies are rare in Africa, for example, by 2007, the country had joined Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and Spain in legalizing same-sex marriage.

**Capital:** Pretoria (executive)

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Cape Town (legislative)

**Largest city:** Johannesburg

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# Three years without Abu-Ammar

by Ksenia Svetlova

**I**n the morning of November, 11 thousands of people flocked to Muqataa of Ramallah, just like three years ago, when the crowds anticipated anxiously for Arafat coffin to be brought from Cairo by Egyptian military helicopter. During these years a lot changed in Palestinian Autonomy and in Muqataa itself. This time there were no riots, not gunshots, no tension. Muqataa itself has been cleaned from rubble and wrecks the night before Arafat's funeral and since then transformed from a dramatic space into an ordinary governmental compound. The first thing that was altered by the new inhabitants of Muqataa was the glass door, which replaced the rugs that used to cover the entrance to the building and from which Arafat emerged so often to give a statement or to greet his visitors. During the last few months another dramatic change took place in Muqataa. Next door to the late Chairman's last place of residence, a brand new memorial complex.

## Simple grave for a simple person

On November 10-Th this complex was officially open by Abu-Mazen and Dr. Muhammad Shtaya, a president of PECNDAR (Palestinian Economical Council for Development and recon-

struction). This complex includes Arafat's mausoleum, a 30 meters minaret and a praying hall. Every little detail in this light and simple space is ought to remind of it's connection to Jerusalem and it's temporary character. Although the proverb has it that there is nothing permanent like the permanent, the creators of the complex say they hope one day this dream will become a reality.

"Arafat wished to be buried in Jerusalem. We weren't able to fulfill his wish, yet we hope that one day we will be able to rebury him in the Holy City", says Dr. Shtaya, who initiated and headed this project.

The mausoleum walls are built of glass to imply transparency, while the praying hall and the minaret were made of famous white Jerusalem stone, which gives the structure a feeling of lightness and lucidity. A unique dry fixation technique was applied to avoid using the cement to hold together the stones. The grave itself lies on rail – a symbol of movement, and the mausoleum is surrounded by water from three sides. A laser beam projected from the top of 30 meter minaret will connect the grave with Jerusalem. On a later stage, a museum of Arafat and a garden will complete the complex that occupies much of Muqataa's yard.

"Arafat lived a very simple life. He was a very simple person. This place is suitable for him, as he never longed for luxury and comfort, spending his whole life between one Muqataa to another" says Dr. Shtaya.

## Missing the father figure

A lot of efforts, thoughts and ideas were put into this complex which seems to be very appropriate to the surroundings and the general feelings of the Palestinians towards their late leader. For many his name is identical to the Palestinian cause and Palestinian struggle. Many others see in him father figure and feel that after his death they became orphans. "Today I'm very sad, very sad and anxious for Palestinian future, as I believe Arafat was the only one who could move mountains and fight for our cause no matter what. I pray God will send us another leader just like him" says Amina, a resident of Ramallah and a mother of 5 who came to attend the ceremony in Muqataa with her eldest sons, Amer and Muhammad. Many people around Amina seemed to share her feelings and believe that if Arafat still be alive, he would not allow for a HAMAS coup to take place in Gaza strip and for brothers to spill each other blood. "Arafat was strong, he knew how



to talk to all the factions and to make them respect him and his orders" says Rami, young FATAH activist. FATAH supporters in Gaza strip, who wanted to commemorate the memory of Yasser Arafat, were strongly advised against it by HAMAS militants. The members of HAMAS "Al-Tanfiziya" security force threatened to hurt anyone who will disobey and forbid students to participate in any rally of this kind, yet on November 12 the movement organized a mass demonstration to commemorate Arafat. Thousands of FATAH supporters attended the rally despite the threats, united around Arafat's name and memory. "Who could believe three years ago that Arafat's memory will be betrayed in this way by the sons of Gaza on which soil he first stepped upon his return from Tunisia in 1994" says Dr. Shtaya. He tells about Arafat's personal involvement in everyday life of the Palestinians, his personal connections with the families, especially with the children. "The Palestinian people will never forgive HAMAS for their crimes against Arafat's memory", he concludes.

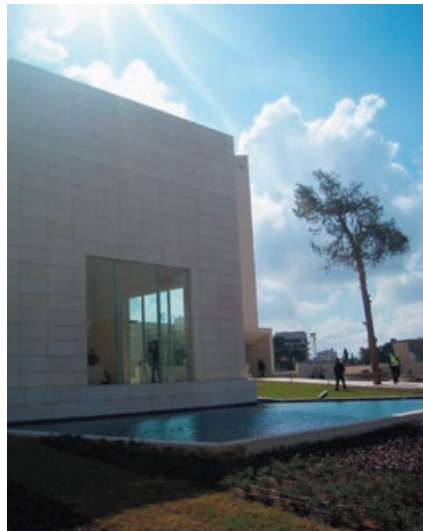
### No grudge

As it often happens after great leader's death, their contemporaries either smash their statues and images, or completely idolize them. In case of Arafat, it seems that he has undergone both processes. In Gaza, during the coup his residence was burnt and his personal belongings, including the Nobel medal stolen. In West Bank in the day of his death many Palestinians put Arafat posters on their houses and cars, watching special programs about his life broadcasted on Arab satellites and Palestinian national TV. They would rather not remember the corruption scandals associated with Arafat's name, but cherish his image of "the father of the nation", and a Palestinian icon. Although the Palestinian press didn't refer to the accusations of disappeared funds and aid that came from the Gulf, Arab satellites, newspapers and website discussed the issue extensively, often quoting Israeli sources. However, today, when the Palestinians are facing much more serious challenges, such as the civil war between the factions, this particular issue is rarely brought up. Men and women in Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus prefer to emphasize his uncompromising

ness in negotiations with Israel and his steadfastness. While Abu-Mazen during his speech on November, 11 said that the way to Annapolis was actually Arafat's way, much of the Palestinian public is convinced that "Arafat wouldn't give up even 1 inch of Palestinian soil, and any lawful Palestinian right".

### Bad guy, good path

So which way the late Chairman was actually headed? Three years after the interpretations of his words and deeds still continue in both Israel and Palestine. Some Palestinians believe that "rais" had chosen an armed struggle over the negotiations, other call him "the champion of peace". Apparently the Israeli public is just as divided when judging Arafat's role in history. Dr. Zeev Hanin, who teaches political science in Bar Ilan University, says that most of Israelis see Arafat as a negative figure, yet regard his heritage as positive and valuable. Approximately 30% believe firmly that Arafat has been and remained a bloody terrorist and a major threat to Israel, yet the majority has mixed feelings towards him. A simple man in his lifestyle, Arafat was a remarkably complex and ambiguous political leader. He remains such even after his death. ●



Up: The Mausoleum.

Up right: -Abu Mazen

-Greek Patriarchy

-Dr. Shtaya prepares to give a speech

-Dr. Amnon Kapeliuk

-The grave

Page 8, left: -Palestinian flag on Mukataa

-The Minret, to be connected with lazer beam to Jerusalem





# Iran Conference

by Olga Tyonima

Nowadays the hottest topic that is discussed by all the politicians, newspapers, scholars, students and teachers in classes is Iran and its nuclear project. Dangerous or not? To hit or not to hit? To wait till sanctions work out or not, and what will happen if the sanctions do not work out. What actions will bring what result?

Recently a conference devoted to this problem was held in Netanya Academic College. There were many specialists there on the Middle East and Iran particularly.

During the conference many ideas were proposed, much theoretical information was given, all ideas had its scientific background, based on studies of ethnic groups of Iran, historical and economic studies, but still the world is waiting for the decision. This decision is not easy, for now sanctions have not given any result, the Iranian regime has not become softer, they are getting more and more centrifuges working and tension gets higher and higher.

For now diplomats are searching the ways, negotiating, discussing, building alliances, searching for support from each other. Hopefully something will work out, hopefully, diplomats will find the best and most persuasive way. Maybe new, unexpected alliances will be created in the Middle East and will work out to face the real danger. For now there is no common answer or opinion. The EU is planning additional sanctions, while Israel is trying to explain that Iran is just trying to win some time and to go nuclear as soon as possible.

Middle East is waiting for the Annapolis results, maybe they will influence the situation or at least move the situation in the region from the dead point and give some positive results. ●



Up: Prof. Joseph Ginat - Director of S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue

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# President of Liberia Arrives on Official Visit

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia arrived in Israel on November 18, 2007 for a three-day official visit. She participated in several ceremonies and was the guest of honor at the International Conference on Women's Leadership for Sustainable Development. She was the guest of President Shimon Peres.

Straight after the reception at the President's Residence, President Johnson-Sirleaf joined President Peres at the David Ben-Gurion commemoration ceremonies marking David Ben-Gurion Day at Sde Boker. She participated in the ceremonies along with President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik, among other dignitaries.

President Johnson-Sirleaf was the guest of honor at the International Conference on Women's Leadership for Sustainable Development, organized by MASHAV – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Center for International Cooperation. President Johnson-Sirleaf opened the conference together with Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni, and presented the opening address at the official opening ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Liberian President visited the "Yad Vashem" Holocaust Memorial and visited the grave of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, laying a wreath at both. President Johnson-Sirleaf also visited holy sites in Jerusalem.

The Liberian President attended a dinner in her honor by President Peres at his official residence. She was also welcomed to the Knesset by Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik where an of-



Left to right: Minister Eugene Shannon, IDI Chairman Moti Ganz, the President of Liberia and IDI managing director Eli Avidar in the background.



icial ceremony was held in her honor, and met with Prime Minister Olmert. Together with her entourage of ministers, the Liberian President held a series of meetings on issues concerning the development of Liberia and bilateral cooperation. The President was also the guest of honor of the Israel Diamond Institute, where she signed a memorandum of understanding (printed in this issue). The United Nations has determined that Liberia no longer has "blood diamonds" and Liberia is looking forward to expansion of cooperation with Israeli diamond merchants. She also met with heads of commercial enterprises interested in becoming involved in the development of Liberia.

Born in 1938, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf studied at Harvard and holds a PhD in

economics. She has held senior positions at the United Nations, the World Bank and other international financial institutions. She is the first woman head of state in Africa.

At the end of 15 bloody years of civil war in Liberia and after many years in exile, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf returned to her homeland, where she was elected in the first democratic elections, held in November 2005. Her main political mission is strengthening of internal peace, and development and rehabilitation of the country after many years of bitter strife. President Johnson-Sirleaf is honored and revered around the western world, especially by the United States and the community of contributing states who are determined to assist her

efforts to rehabilitate the country.

Founded 160 years ago by the first slaves freed in the United States and returned to Africa, they named their country Liberia – after Land of the Free. Unique to Africa, Liberia was never occupied by a colonial or other foreign power. In 1947, Liberia supported the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, and was one of the 33 nations who enabled the creation of Israel. Liberia leaders proudly note this when talking of the great friendship between Israel and Liberia.

The current visit has special importance and significance because of the President's unique personality, the tremendous potential for economic cooperation, encouragement of democratic processes and the expression of friendly relations between Israel and the African continent. ●



## The Middle East as Seen From Middle Europe

Israel Council on Foreign Relations event 26.11.07 held a round table discussion with The Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg.

on "The Middle East as Seen From Middle Europe".

The meeting was chaired by Oded Eran, Director General, World Jewish Congress Representative Office in Israel.

The Council is the publisher of the "Israel Journal Of Foreign Affairs".



**Photo:** To right of the FM is Oded Eran, head of the World Jewish Congress Representative Office in Jerusalem and Dr David Kimche, President of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

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# Diplomatic Events

## Realty-2008

In the age of globalization our world becomes smaller, people cooperate easier and more new opportunities for developing business are emerging. That is why more and more investors are searching for businesses abroad, where their capital can be used and invested properly. That is why a Conference, Realty - 2008, that was organized by the Diplomatic Club and took place on November 2 in the David Intercontinental Hotel attracted the attention of diplomats and businesspeople from different countries. The Realty - 2008 Conference was devoted to Global Real Estate Investment and Development, several interesting professional lectures were given, and some projects from different countries were presented. Even though the Conference took part early on Friday morning, guests and participants were active and ready to cooperate. Mr. Ivan Del Vechio, the Ambassador of Croatia, who made a presentation about his country and described the opportunities that Croatia can offer to foreign investors, opened the Conference. Professor Leo Leiderman, who was representing Bank Hapoalim gave a presentation about Global Market Trends and Opportunities from an Israeli Perspective. Ms. Orly Benny Davis, who was representing Pomegranate



**Up:** -At the Conference  
-Ms. Orly Benny Davis, and Ambassador of Croatia Mr. Ivan Del Vechio  
-Professor Leo Leiderman



**Up left, clock wise:**

- Mr. Wael Kraiem
- Mr. Ehud Ben Shach
- Concull of Russia
- Representing Ukraine
- Dr. Yehuda Raveh
- Representing Croatia

בנק הפועלים  
החטיבה העסקית



Political Consulting Firm, from the U.S.A, gave a Lecture about why investing in the U.S.A. makes sense. She was among the active participants of the conference and took part in the discussion that took place later.

Mr. Wael Kraiem, a representative of the Arab Business Club made an interesting regional and country investment analysis. Mr. Yehuda Raveh from Raveh & Company Law Offices spoke about alternative ways of financing the projects. Mr. Ehud Ben Shach, from Neocity group shared experience about property development in Eastern and Western Europe. Mr. Maor Shaek, represented the company Express and spoke about where and what to build and the use of foreign companies.


After the presentations and speeches, the main part of the conference has started. These were projects from Ukraine, an interesting project from Artem Bank, and the Russian representative told about country real estate situation, structure and possibilities, a representative from Croatia spoke about Health Care Real Estate and Hotels, a representative from Peru told about bridges and infrastructure. The U.S.A. representative spoke about Ski resorts, Commercial and Private Real Estate. The Diplomatic Club wishes all the participants of The Global Development and Investment Conference success in business and hopes that the new connections that were created during the Realty - 2008 Conference will be useful and productive.

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## Diplomatic Events

### National Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

On the 29th of October the National Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was celebrated. It was a nice event, where guests were met by the representatives of the Nigerian embassy in traditional clothes, with warm greetings and friendly handshakes. The atmosphere was warm and cozy. The Israeli government was represented by Ami Ayalon, who greeted the Nigerian people and as well His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Sam Dada OLiisa spoke about cooperation between Israel and Nigeria. As you may know, according to social research, the Nigerian nation is one of the most optimistic nations in the world, and you could easily feel it on the holiday.

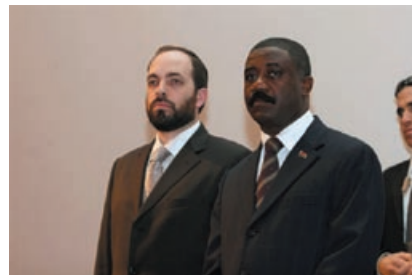
**Up:** Ambassadors of South Africa, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Ami Ayalon, the government representative, Minister and Member of Knesset.

**Down:** Mr. Ami Ayalon discussing with the Nigerian Ambassador, HE Mr. Sam Dada OLiisa on the occasion.



### Angola National Day celebration

The celebration of the Angolan National Day was on November 11 at Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv. The Minister of Communication of Israel, Ariel Atias, represented the Government of the State of Israel. It was the 32nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Angola.



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Director of Agency "Art Sintez"  
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## Diplomatic Events

### Ambassador of the Republic Of Angola wife's event

The ambassador's wife event happened on November 8 at the Official Residence of the Republic Of Angola in Israel (Herzlya Pictua Bazel 23).

The ambassador's wife invited more or less 250 guests (women) to show them our country (music, food, clothes, handcrafts, video, etc.) . The name of the event was "Meet My Country").



### Independence Day of Poland 15/11/2007 at David Intercontinental Hotel

The Ambassador Agnieszka Magdziak Miszewska, Military Attache Ireneusz Drazyk, the Minister Cohen.



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## Diplomatic Events

### The Scottish Church celebrated St. Andrew's Day and the re-opening of the guesthouse in Jerusalem

The Church of Scotland invested 2.8 Million Shekels in improvements and renovations to its guesthouse in Jerusalem. The guesthouse is located next to St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem. The two form one beautiful structure.

The opening celebration was held on ST. ANDREW'S day this weekend.

The guesthouse has 20 guest rooms, a dining room, library and lounge which boast an inspiring view of the walls around the old city of Jerusalem. In addition to the many public gardens and parks in the area the guesthouse has its own quiet and shady garden area that is always open to guest.

The Church and Guesthouse were established in 1927 as a memorial to Scottish soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the holy land during World War I. General Allenby laid the foundation stone at the ceremony marking the beginning of work on the site. The structure was built in the Art-Deco architectural style. Some of the Church's fame in Jerusalem is linked to the Scottish King, Robert Bruce. According to legend the King before his death (in the 14th century) requested that his heart be buried in Jerusalem. The emissary sent to do this, James



Uri Miles.

Douglas, was killed on his way and the King's heart vanished. Nonetheless, a stone tablet with the King's name is embedded in the apse of the Church in Jerusalem.

The Church of Scotland by policy employs staff from all sectors of the local population. This is applied as well in Tiberius at the Scots Hotel, owned and developed by the Church, which was opened three years ago following major renovation and the building of new structures on the site which originally was a hospital operated by the Church. Israel is the only place where the Church operates commercial tourist ventures. The Church of Scotland has more than 1,300 ministers and representatives active in communities around the globe, in hospitals, health and educational programs. Its work is accomplished through a special body named the Overseas Council which carries out its various programs in cooperation with local churches in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, South America as well as the Middle East.



#### St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem,

was built as a memorial to the Scottish soldiers who died in the region during World War I. It is a congregation of the Church of Scotland. The foundation stone was laid by Field Marshal Lord Allenby on 7th May 1927 and the church was opened in 1930. Services are held every Sunday and there is a guest house providing accommodation for visitors. The current minister (since 2006) is the Reverend Jane Barron, formerly minister at Stobswell Church in Dundee, Scotland.

# Diplomatic Spouses' Club in Israel

**Happy Hanukkah, Eid al-Adha and Merry Christmas! Seasons Greetings!  
Peaceful New 2008 Year!**

**Kids & Café**  
IWC Israel

## K&C December's Activity

**What:** Kids & Café Lunch

**When:** 13th December.

**What time:** 12:30

**Where:** We will meet for a lunch at «Terassa» in Herzliya Pituach, an excellent place with a wonderful view and breeze from the sea.

**Address:** 100 Ramat Yam, Accadia Beach in HP.  
You are welcome to join with your kids, «Terassa» is children friendly place.

*“Never fear spoiling children by making them too happy.  
Happiness is the atmosphere in which all good affections grow”*

-Thomas Bray

**RSVP to Inara Eihenbauma at:**

inara.eihenbauma@gmail.com or 054 306 6991

**P.S.** If it is possible, can you please donate some school supplies and other goods (toys, sweets etc.) for the orphanage?

It can be collected on the day of our lunch.

You are welcome to ask questions.

**Thank you so much in advance.**

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The Diplomatic Club Magazine wishes all our readers a Happy New Year and best of luck in their countries' teams participation in the Basketball and Football championships!

## Euroleague FIBA

### Qualifier

Bernos Riga Latvia – Hapoel Nahariya, 20.11.07, 27.11.07

**Eighth Finals:** 11.12.07, 18.12.07, 8.01.08, 15.01.08, 22.01.08, 29.01.08

**Quarter Finals:** 19.02.08, 26.02.08, 04.03.08

**Half Final:** 18.04.08

**Final:** 20.04.08

### European Women's Championships

Galatsary Turkey – Elitsur Ramle, 08.11.07. First Round: 29.11.07

Adana Turkey – A.S. Ramat Ha Sharon, 08.11.07.

First Round: 29.11.07

Elitsur Ramle – Dneipro Ukraine, 15.11.07. First Round: 06.12.07

A.S. Ramat Ha Sharon – Shivekta Ukraine, 15.11.07.

First Round: 06.12.07

Donav Bulgaria / Limassol Cyprus – Elitsur Ramle, 22.11.07.

First Round: 13.12.07

Votsnost Montenegro/Palmotri Albania-A.S. Ramat Ha Sharon,

22.11.07. First Round: 13.12.07

**Round B:** 10.01.08, 17.01.08

**Eighth Finals:** 31.01.08, 07.02.08

**Quarter Finals:** 21.02.08, 28.02.08

**Half Finals:** 06.03.08, 13.03.08

**Finals:** 27.03.08, 03.04.08

### Euroleague

Maccabi Tel Aviv – Chibona Zazrov Croatia, 22.11.07.

First Round: 17.01.08

Milano Italy – Maccabi Tel Aviv, 29.11.07. First Round: 24.01.08

Maccabi Tel Aviv – Aris Saloniki Greece, 06.12.07.

First Round: 31.01.08

**Eighth Finals:** 14.02.08, 21.02.08, 28.02.08, 06.03.08.

13.03.08, 20.03.08

**Quarter Finals:** 01.04.08, 03.04.08, 10.04.08

### Final Four

**Half Final:** 02.05.08

**Final:** 04.05.08

### Euleb Championships

Hapoel Galil Elion – Gemunden Austria, 06.11.07

First Round: 11.12.07

Hapoel Jerusalem – Strasbourg France, 06.11.07

First Round: 11.12.07

Lovarsky Moscow – Hapoel Galil Elion, 13.11.07

First Round: 18.12.07

Amsterdam Holland – Hapoel Jerusalem, 13.11.07

First Round: 18.12.07

Hapoel Galil Elion – Antwerpen Belgium, 20.11.07

First Round: 08.01.08

Hapoel Jerusalem – Kazan Russia, 20.11.07

First Round: 08.01.08

Votsnost Montenegro – Hapoel Galil Elion, 27.11.07

First Round: 15.01.08

Hapoel Jerusalem – Zader Croatia, 27.11.07. First Round: 15.01.08

Hapoel Galil Elion – Freiburg Switzerland, 05.12.07.

First Round: 22.01.08

Zagorolik Poland – Hapoel Jerusalem, 05.12.07.

First Round: 22.01.08

### Next Rounds

12.02.08, 19.02.08, 26.02.08, 04.03.08, 11.03.08,

18.03.08, 08.04.08.

## Football World Cup 2010 South Africa Draw

### Europe:

**Group 1:** Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Albania, Malta.

**Group 2:** Greece, Israel, Switzerland, Moldova, Latvia, Luxembourg.

**Group 3:** Czech Republic, Poland, NORTHERN IRELAND, Slovakia, Slovenia, San Marino.

**Group 4:** Germany, Russia, Finland, WALES, Azerbaijan, Leichtenstein.

**Group 5:** Spain, Turkey, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Armenia, Estonia.

**Group 6:** Croatia, ENGLAND, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Andorra.

**Group 7:** France, Romania, Serbia, Lithuania, Austria, Faroe Islands.

**Group 8:** Italy, Bulgaria, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, Cyprus, Georgia, Montenegro.

**Group 9:** Holland, SCOTLAND, Norway, FYR Macedonia, Iceland.

### Asia:

**Group 1:** Australia, Iraq, Qatar and China

**Group 2:** Oman, Thailand, Bahrain, Japan

**Group 3:** North Korea, Jordan, Turkmenistan, South Korea

**Group 4:** Lebanon, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia

**Group 5:** Syria, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iran

### North America:

The Concacaf qualification process is a complete dog's dinner:

The teams that come out of this lot will advance to three groups of four. The top two sides from each of those groups will then enter one final group, from which the top three teams qualify. The fourth team in the group will play off against the fifth place South American side. Does it really have to be like this? now don't ask what this means...

**1A:** USA play Dominica or Barbados

**1B:** Guatemala play Turks and Caicos Islands or St Lucia

**1C:** Trinidad and Tobago play Bermuda or Caymen Islands

**1D:** Cuba play Aruba or Antigua and Barbuda

**2A:** Mexico play Belize or St Kitts and St Nevis

**2B:** Jamaica play Bahamas or British Virgin Islands

**2C:** Honduras play Dominican Republic or Puerto Rica

**2D:** The winner of Canada v St Vincent and the Grenadines gets a bye

**3A:** Costa Rica play US Virgin Islands or Grenada

**3B:** Guyana play Suriname or Montserrat

**3C:** Panama play El Salvador or Anguilla

**3D:** Haiti play Nicaragua or Netherlands Antilles.

### Africa:

So this is what's going on here: 12 groups of four, from which winners and the best eight runners-up will advance to five final groups of four. The winners - plus any team second to South Africa (this goes towards the 2010 African Nations Cup as well) - will make it to the first World Cup to be held on African soil.

**Group 1:** Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Tanzania, Mauritius

**Group 2:** Guinea, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya

**Group 3:** Angola, Benin, Uganda, Niger

**Group 4:** Nigeria, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone

**Group 5:** Ghana, Libya, Gabon, Lesotho

**Group 6:** Senegal, Algeria, Liberia, Gambia

**Group 7:** Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Botswana, Madagascar

**Group 8:** Morocco, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mauritania

**Group 9:** Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Brundi, Seychelles

**Group 10:** Mali, Congo, Sudan, Chad

**Group 11:** Togo, Zambia, Eritrea, Swaziland

**Group 12:** Egypt, Congo DR, Malawi, Djibouti

Asutria are doomed.

Italy and Spain should have no Problems whatsoever...

ENGLAND get Croatia and Andorra, AGAIN.

## Infant swimming with parents

Infant swimming starts from the age of three months to four years. The actual swimming and all the rest of the actively is proceeded with the patents in the water.

The warm temperature and pleasant atmosphere help the babies' development and strengthen their relationship with their patens.

The child learns to feel naturally comfortable within the water area. The exercises and games help strengthen the toddlers, improve weight balance coordination, respiratory system and self confidence.

Ori Sela's Water World pool is open all year long, and is heated especially conformed to answer all the needs of the children.

The instructors:

Ori Sela's instructors are Wingate graduates, swimming instructors for all ages and have lots of experience in the field. The baby swimming instructors, in addition to their professional qualification, have a remarkable approach to treating infants. Our instructors are a foundation stone of Ori Sela's Water World, their great passion to their work with babies in the water along with their professionalism and great experience are what characterize and designate us compared to others.

### About the pool:

Our infant swimming is taking place in the pool on 4 Unitzman St., Tel Aviv (Glilot Injection). The pool is specifically suited for all the toddlers needs, and also the variance treatments. Our super vision system is computerized and is in charge of inspection and control of every second during the day so that maintenance is kept with high standard in addition.

The super vision system automatically adds all of the additives according to health government ministry regulation.

The temperature of the water is 91.4 F (unlike ordinary swimming pools which are heated up to 82.4 F), together with high circulation and a proper amount of chlorine which is suited for all the situations of the pool.

In the area of the pool we have a shower, dressing cabins and changing desks for the babies. There is a big parking space just outside the pool and it's free to all our customers.

### What the lessons are like at infant swimming and when do we start the fly stoke?

The first month of the course is all about adapting, the babies adapt to their instructor to the pool, the atmosphere, the games and the songs. After about a month comes the stage of diving – or to be more accurate – putting the children's faces in the water. Once the adaptation period is over we continue to work on mussel strengthening, coordination, body weight balance, breathing and the children's self confidence.

The whole lesson is accompanied by songs and games and endless love.

Up to the age of two years (more or less) we prepare the child to the real stage – the swimming stage. We start by practicing drawing big circles with our hands and kicking with our feet. The kids success in swimming 1-5 M underwater without having to lift their head above the surface. Around the age of three children work with fins on their feet and work very hard to strengthen their shoulders in order to be able to lift their head above water surface and breath.

From the age of three to four years the children learn to swim full breast - stroke (hands and legs), just like we adults swim.

About fly-stoke, children who attend their swimming lessons continuously once a week – are able to swim all four strokes!!! Amazing isn't it?!



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