

The Diplomatic Club



November-December 2006



PEOPLE

**GENNADY TARASOV,
AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA TO ISRAEL**

ART

EARLY WORKS OF REUVEN RUBIN

DIALOG WITH A DOCTOR

**DR. TENZER:
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS**

The Diplomatic Club



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Dear Friends,

2006 was an eventful year, during which the Middle-East –and the rest of the world – witnessed the Lebanon War and the adoption of the Roadmap. 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 2007 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 2007

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 is Israel's fast growing media magazine and media platform. As events in the Middle East continue to hold center stage and the world's attention, the Magazine provides further and additional real-time English-language coverage and supplements, with accurate in-depth, top-notch quality and quantity than any other Israel-based media.

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

We also pleased to introduce a new rubric: Dialog with a doctor

As the 2006 is now over, it is time to go back to work about new services for coming 2007 year. And the Diplomatic Club will work harder than ever to bring its members new and improved services. To keep up with the new deals and discount organized by the Diplomatic Club for its members, like Multilingual telephone service, contact center and medical helpline are operated on a 24/7/365 basis, supported by vetted and approved network suppliers (see page 18).

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

Yours sincerely,

Julia Verdel

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GENNADY TARASOV

AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA
TO ISRAEL

We are satisfied with the dynamics and trends of the economic cooperation between our countries. It is enough to remember that at the beginning of the 1990s our relations were almost at a zero point with the trade turnover of only \$12 million. Now, according to the data provided by the Israeli Bureau of Statistics, it has reached \$1,5 billion. Russia and Israel successfully cooperate in the energy and transportation sectors, telecommunications, diamond industry, agriculture, medicine and many other spheres.

- What were the outcomes of President Putin's visit to Israel in April, 2005 for the Russian-Israeli cooperation? What were the main achievements?

I will not exaggerate if I call President Putin's visit to Israel "historic". It opened up a new chapter in the relations between our countries which mark this year the 15th anniversary of their resumption. It was the first visit ever by the President of Russia to Israel, and as such it carried an important political message: both states and their leaders strongly wish to develop bilateral relations in various fields.

In practical terms, the visit helped to strengthen the relationship and mutual understanding between our countries. The Joint Russian-Israeli Declaration which was signed during the visit reflects the similarity of the two countries' positions on many outstanding issues. In particular, both sides reaffirmed the intention to cooperate in the fight against modern challenges and threats, including the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to combat racism, discrimination and intolerance. They also expressed their commitment to continue efforts in order to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace in the region – to name just a few.

In the course of President Putin's visit the leaders discussed the possibilities of further enhancing our political dialogue, economic cooperation, interaction in the sphere of security as well as humanitarian ties. It was agreed to broaden the legal framework of bilateral relations by signing a number of intergovernmental agreements, among them on protection and encouragement of invest-

ment, on joint exploration of outer space, on facilitating travel exchange between the citizens of our countries. As for the cultural sphere, the proposal of President Putin to open a Russian culture and science centre in Israel is now close to its practical realization.

We hope that the visit of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to Moscow in mid-October



Ambassador Gennady Tarasov

will assist the advancement of cooperation on all these avenues.

- What are the most important spheres of the Russian-Israeli economic/trade relationship?

We are satisfied with the dynamics and trends of the economic cooperation between our countries. It is enough to remember that at the beginning of the 1990s our relations were almost at a zero point with the trade turnover

of only \$12 million. Now, according to the data provided by the Israeli Bureau of Statistics, it has reached \$1,5 billion. Russia and Israel successfully cooperate in the energy and transportation sectors, telecommunications, diamond industry, agriculture, medicine and many other spheres.

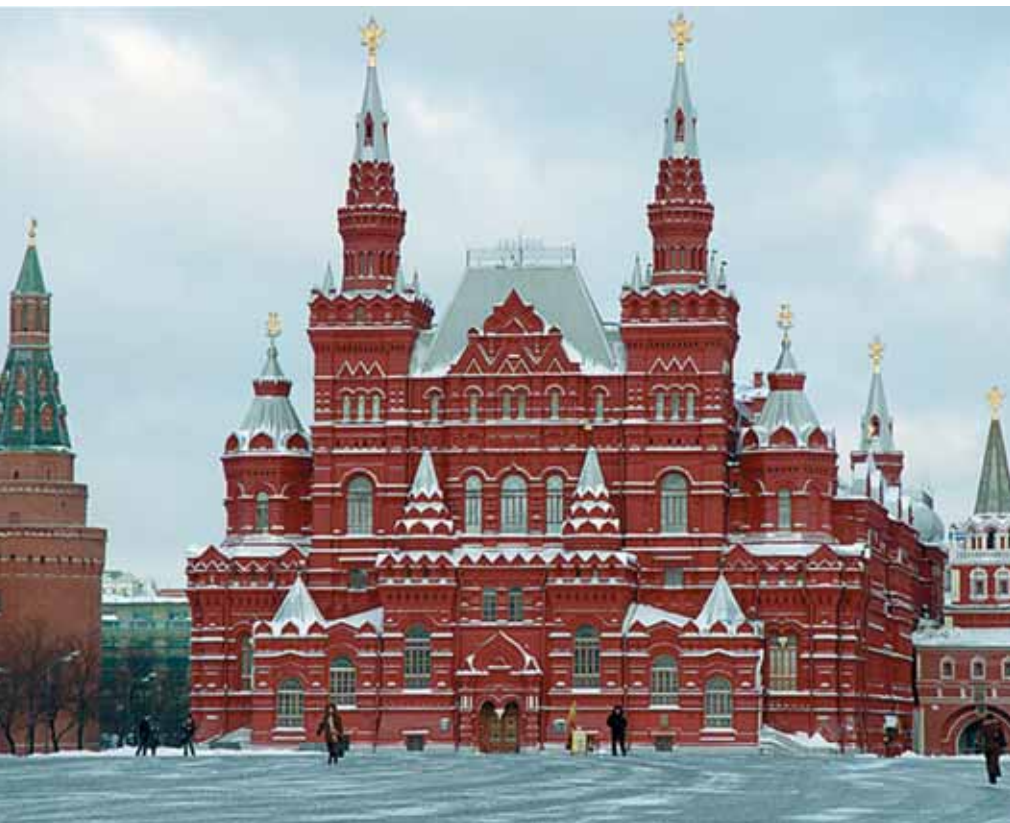
In our view, the level of our economic interaction is not bad but still insufficient. It is clear that the volume of cooperation can and must be upgraded. The best way is to increase the share of processed products and hi-tech in it. Energy supplies from Russia and closer cooperation in infrastructural projects would also be a significant booster.

A practical step in order to enhance the bilateral trade was made in May, 2006 during the visit of the delegation of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to Israel. It signed the Agreement on cooperation and partnership with the Federation of the Israeli Economic Organizations which provides for joint study of business developments in Russia and Israel, the exchange of relevant economic and legal information, encouragement of investments etc. According to expert estimates the bilateral trade can grow to \$5 billion by 2010.

- How does Russia view the development of the peace process between Israel, the Palestinians and Israel's immediate neighbours?

We regard the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as pivotal to the future of the Middle East. It is obvious that this conflict continues to be a breeding ground for violence and extremism, engendering ever new hot spots of tension in the region and beyond.

Over the last years the Middle East peace process has been dealt serious blows, but, in our view, the situation is not hopeless. On the contrary – it demands more vigorous efforts. We believe that there are genuine opportunities to find a lasting political solution between Israel and the Palestinians. The basis for concerted actions is well known: the principle of two states for two peoples, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Road Map accepted by both parties. Russia supports the dialogue between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and PNA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas which can become a first



step in order to advance the peace process on the Palestinian track. To create necessary conditions for that the sides should take concrete measures of humanitarian character – in the first place release the abducted Israeli soldier and Palestinian prisoners.

By the same token, as the recent flare-up in Lebanon clearly showed, there is an urgent need to resume negotiations on all tracks that could lead to a comprehensive settlement. The practical implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1701 on Lebanon remains at the top of the international agenda. The deployment of the Lebanese Army and the enhanced UNIFIL in South Lebanon shows clear signs of progress. Yet the situation remains somewhat precarious. Both sides must exercise utmost restraint and firmly

commit themselves to the successful implementation of this Resolution. The Syrian track can also be activated. Our contacts with Damascus show that it is interested in genuine peace in the region.

Russia views positively the Arab League initiative which may open the way to a comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East which will bring peace, security and stability to Israel and all its neighbours. As a member of the Quartet we stand ready to assist this goal in every possible manner.

-How does Russia's increasingly important role as supplier of oil and gas to the world influence the dynamics of international relations?

Russia's unique geographical position, the

sheer size of its energy resources, the existing industrial infrastructure and technological level of its fuel and energy sector provide a solid basis for continued strengthening of our role as a global player. The International Energy Agency forecasts the world demand for energy to rise by one third by the year 2015 – that is in less than 10 years from now. Nearly 80% of oil will be supplied by only three regions – the Gulf, the Caspian basin and Russia, which is number two in the world oil supplies after Saudi Arabia and number one in gas. It is not by chance that one of the leading topics of Russia's current chairmanship in G-8 is to ensure the security of global energy supplies. Naturally, this state of affairs leads to the growing role of Russia in overall global politics.

I would like to emphasize that our policy is and will be balanced. We are confident that the growing cooperation in the energy sphere will help to focus the international community on the need to respect mutual interests and search for compromises. In a word, multilateral diplomacy and diplomacy in general will only benefit from this.

- How will tourism grow between Russia and Israel?

I am sure that tourism between Russia and Israel will grow due to both countries' significant potential in this sphere. The trend is quite clear: according to the Israeli data, 68000 Russian tourists visited Israel in 2005, that is 23% more than in 2004. In addition to the usual recreation tourism religious and medical visits are also becoming popular in our country. In general, high standards of resorts and recreation facilities in Israel attract here more and more of our people. There is also a good perspective for increasing the number of Israeli tourists to Russia: last year 25000 Israelis chose our country as their destination. To further promote and encourage tourist exchanges both sides study the possibilities to simplify visa procedures.

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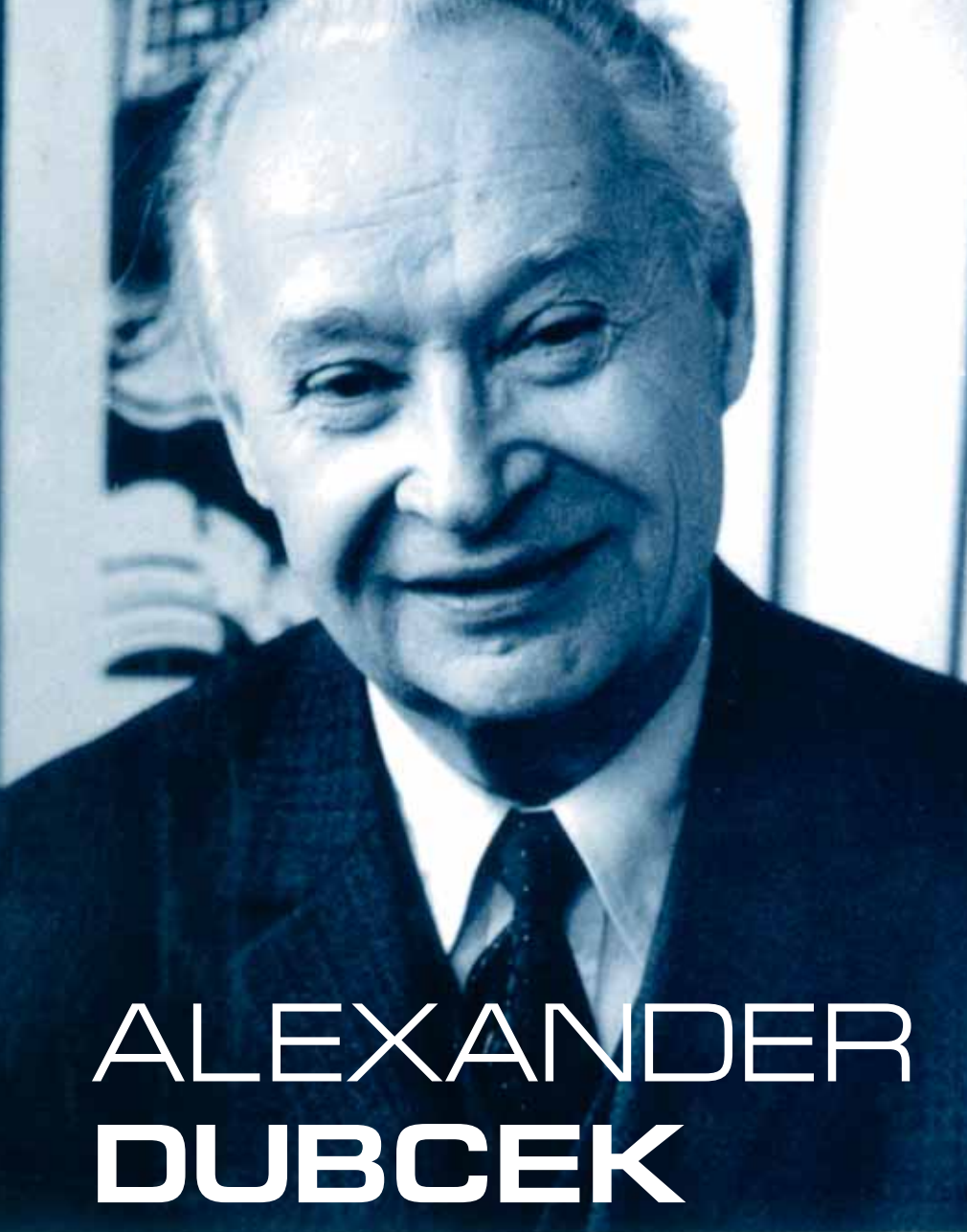
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ALEXANDER DUBCEK

Alexander Dubcek is a name easy to be found in books of Czechoslovak history. For some Dubcek was a celebrity and a symbol of the "Prague Spring" revolution of 1968, but others blamed him for being one of the leaders of communist movement whose consequences had Czechs and Slovaks to bear for more than 20 years

Alexander Dubcek was the son of U.S. emigrants who had lived in Chicago in the beginning of the century. His father Stefan Dubcek and his mother Pavlina, both from Slovakia, had met and married in the United States. Stefan Dubcek worked as a cabinet maker by day and as a worker in Eugene V. Debs' Socialist Party in his spare time. During the World War I Stefan Dubcek was arrested and had to spend fourteen months in an internment camp in Texas because he refused to be drafted⁽²⁾. A few months before Dubcek's birth, his parents returned to Slovakia where Alexander was born in November 27, 1921. Alexander Dubcek's father was one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Communist party. In 1925 the Dubcek family moved to Kirghizia, Soviet Union, where Stefan Dubcek was one of the founders of an industrial cooperative. Alexander Dubcek completed his primary and sec-

ondary education in the Soviet Union where he also worked as a machine locksmith and engine fitter. The Dubcek family returned to Slovakia in 1938 escaping from the Stalinist purges.

In 1939, Alexander Dubcek joined the Communist party, which at that time was outlawed. Alexander also began to work as an apprentice at the Skoda armament factory at Dubnica and was very active in anti-Nazi underground activities. In the winter of 1944-45 he fought in the Slovak uprising against the Germans, during which he was twice wounded and his brother Julius was killed. When the war was over, Alexander Dubcek worked in a yeast factory in the Slovak town of Trencin where he became the secretary of the district committee of the Communist party.

This was the first of a series of important jobs that Dubcek got during his political carrier. In

1951 he became a member of the central committee of the Slovak Communist Party. During these year he also studied law at Komensky University in Bratislava. For a brief period of time he was also the chief secretary of the Communist party regional committee at Banska Bystrica in central Slovakia. In 1951 he was elected deputy of the National assembly, a job that he held until 1955 and to which he was reelected in 1960. In 1955 Alexander Dubcek was sent by the Communist party to study in the Soviet Union and he.

When Dubcek returned from the Soviet Union he continued to rise up ranks of the Slovak and Czechoslovak communist party. In 1962 Dubcek became a member of the ten-men Presidium- or ruling body- of the Central committee of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia, hence becoming one of the highest ranking Slovak in the Communist party of Czechoslovakia. In 1963 he also became the top figure of the Slovak Communist party. Important to note is the fact that Alexander Dubcek reached the top positions favoring the official Soviet policy and without being involved in the internal conflicts of the party, hence avoiding the political purges conducted by the party leader Antonin Novotny. Meanwhile, a movement for political and economic change started to develop in Czechoslovakia. The negative performance of the economy in the early 1960s and the Slovak nationalism are believed to be important factors in the calls for change. In 1967 under enormous pressure for change the Communist party initiated a package of reforms to decentralize the economy. However, this reforms fell short of what the economic reformers, led by professor Ota Sik, thought necessary. Alexander Dubcek gradually started to identify himself with liberal writers, philosophers, movie makers, and economists who favored the reforms. Being the leader of the Slovak Communist party, Dubcek had expressed great concern for the neglect of the Slovak economy and started to advocate economic reforms. Dubcek also demanded the rehabilitation of Slovak Communists, victims of the purges of the Stalinist period, and demanded that the Slovak National uprising of 1944-45 be recognized as "progressive" rather than "bourgeois nationalist".

Within the Communist party, the discontent of the population was expressed by the calls for the removal of the conservative leader Antonin Novotny from the position of first secretary. On January 5, 1968, Alexander Dubcek replaced Novotny assuming the highest position in the party although Novotny retained the ceremonial post of national President. Alexander Dubcek, elected by unanimous vote of the 144 member Central Committee of the Communist party, was chosen for being considered a moderate political figure accepted by both conservatives and reformers who equally opposed Novotny. After his ascent to power Dubcek supported a package of reforms that changed the course of the Czechoslovak history. These reforms magnified the calls for removal of conservatives from power and hastened the replacement of president

Novotny by general Svoboda in March of 1968. Dubcek reforms also abolished censorship, rehabilitated the victims of the purges of 1950's, and regularized relations between the government and the churches. Nothing like these reforms had happened since the unsuccessful uprisings in Poland and Hungary in the 1950s. These reforms signified the willingness of the people of Czechoslovakia to pursue a more independent and democratic path to social and economic development, and also signified a deviation from the more orthodox Soviet communist model.

These reforms of the "Prague Spring" were naturally opposed by the other communist countries which denounced Dubcek's behavior as unacceptable. It was reported that Alexander Dubcek declared the position of the other communist countries an interference in the internal affairs of his country. In July 1968 Dubcek met with Brezhnev, the president of the Soviet Union, who clearly told Dubcek that the reforms in Czechoslovakia should be stopped. Even though Dubcek allegedly made some concessions to Brezhnev, he resisted Brezhnev insistence that the reforms should be stopped.

On August 21, troops of the Warsaw pact invaded Czechoslovakia because it had become clear that Mr. Dubcek was not backing down from the liberal reforms. Dubcek was arrested and taken to Moscow. In another meeting with Brezhnev, Dubcek was reminded that since the end of the W.W.II Czechoslovakia had been a part of the Soviet security zone, and that the Soviet Union had no intention of giving it up. Alexander Dubcek disagreed with this position and was brave enough to tell him so. After the invasion Dubcek was expelled from the party and sent to Turkey as an ambassador. In 1970 he was banished to internal exile for 18 years, but in 1989 with the advent of political reforms Dubcek was rehabilitated and was elected the speaker of the parliament. Alexander Dubcek died in November 7, 1992 victim of an automobile accident, when it was almost certain that Czechoslovakia was going to be separated into two different countries. Even though he was opposed to the breakup of Czechoslovakia, he was mentioned as a possible candidate for presidency of an independent Slovak Republic.

On 7 November 1992, Alexander Dubek died in hospital from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. The accident had taken place a couple of months earlier when the car he was traveling in spun out of control, and Dubek was thrown from the automobile. The BMW had been traveling at a high speed during a heavy rain storm with high winds. The accident resulted in a tragic loss for Slovakia - just as the new Slovak state was about to be born.

Dubcek's notoriety had begun in Spring 1968 when, as party first secretary, he attempted to build "socialism with a human face," which aimed to reform Communism and transform the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia into a genuine people's party. The experiment abruptly ended in August of that year when Soviet-led



Warsaw Pact troops occupied the country and subsequently reinstalled a more cooperative government. Dubek and other reformers were pushed aside and forced to take relatively insignificant jobs.

Dubek himself was a lifelong Communist who always maintained a certain optimism about his country's future. Gorbachev and the Velvet Revolution seemed to vindicate his earlier efforts to reform socialism. A second leg in his career took off after 1989, and he became a leading figure in the Social Democratic Party of Slovakia (SDSS). Unlike in the Czech lands, a Communist Party never reemerged in Slovakia after the Velvet Revolution. During his last years, Dubek served as chairman of the former Czechoslovak Parliament and prided himself in his role as moderator and a source of moral authority.

Some members of the SDSS have repeatedly claimed that Dubek's crash was no accident but rather an incident orchestrated to keep him out of the political picture. Others have blamed jealous Czech rivals or have targeted Dubek's potential rivals in Slovakia itself. None appear to have had enough evidence to back such speculation. On account of the ongoing controversy, the Social Democratic Party leadership requested a review of the evidence compiled during the previous Czech-led investigation.

The recent inquiry by the Slovak Interior Ministry aimed to put to rest such conspiracy theories. After a detailed reevaluation, the Ministry has reaffirmed the conclusion of the previous Czech investigation that Dubek's death was indeed nothing other than a tragic accident.

The chief Slovak investigator, Jaroslav Ivor, told a group of journalists that no evidence of murder had been found. Rather, the investigators concluded that the accident resulted from "aquaplaning." This occurs when a wet surface causes a car to lose traction and go out of control. It happens especially when vehicles are traveling at extremely high speeds in poor weather conditions.

According to police estimates, Dubek's vehicle was going between 114 and 131 kilometers per hour on the Prague-Bratislava expressway. For inclement weather a local posting cautioned speed limits of 80 kilometers per hour. The courts subsequently gave the driver a 12 month sentence for speeding (15 February 2000).

For now, the case appears to be closed. The president of the SDSS, Jaroslav Volf, has indicated that his party has accepted the conclusions of the investigation.

Why has there been so much speculation about a plot to kill Dubek? As the leading figure of Czechoslovakia's Prague Spring of 1968, Alexander Dubek was and is arguably the most well known of all Slovaks in world history. He would have been a prime candidate for President of the Slovak Republic. His reputation would also have gained Slovakia more favorable recognition internationally - perhaps even some empathy for the lesser known part of the country that split with the Czechs in the Velvet Divorce. With Dubek out of the way, the door opened for other politicians who embraced a more abrasive foreign policy toward Slovakia's neighbors.

However, since he died shortly before his native Slovakia achieved its independence, Dubek never had the chance to have a hand in building this newest state in Europe. Since the new Slovakia lacked another personality with the worldwide notoriety and stature of Dubek, it started out with a disadvantage with respect to obtaining a place on the international stage. While the Czechs have enjoyed the benefits of President Havel's name and reputation, no such leader has emerged in independent Slovakia.

Thus Dubek's death has had a lasting impact upon Slovakia's subsequent history. Slovakia continues to endeavor to develop a positive image in hopes of joining the community of nations belonging to the European Union and NATO. But it will have to do so with only the memory of Dubek to draw on for inspiration.



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(formerly Renaissance)

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GOLDEN CROWN HOTEL More than Ever

The opening of the hotel are gradual, with the opening of 100 rooms at the beginning of November, and incremental opening of all the 245 rooms and 3 suites by May 2007.

With the opening of the hotel, all the public areas will be are opened, including the lobby, dining rooms and the complex of event halls

:a central hall with a capacity of up to 1200 guests, a hall for 300 guests, a hall for 200 guests, and another hall for 100 guests. The spa will also be opened, including a gym, a treatment room, a wet sauna, a dry sauna and an external pool (in season). The Hotel shops will be opened gradually. One of the hotel wings will accommodate business people, including, a business lounge, and wireless Internet communication.

There has been extensive interest by businesspeople from throughout the Middle East, who visit Nazareth as the region's business and trade capital, as well as by pilgrims around the world who have already booked rooms in the hotel .

On the 28th of October 2006, as part of the international Italy Week, an exhibition of unique art artifacts was opened .

In attendance was the Italian Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Sandro De Bernardin, the Mayor of Nazareth, Mr. Ramiz Jaraisy, Bishops, local clergymen and other distinguished guests.

The launching of the Golden Crown Hotel emphasizes the new theme of the hotel – an experience for people of all three faiths, taking into account the change in consumer trends in recent years in domestic and incom-

ing tourism: last minute bookings and the desire to experience new locations and the cultural diversity of Israel.

The hotel's owner is Bashir Abed El Razek and the active manager is Radi Telhami. Excalibur Consultation company, owned by Mickey Schwartz and Ravi Raz, is the management company which is in charge of all the management, branding and marketing segments. **For reservation: 04-6016666; 04-6016007**



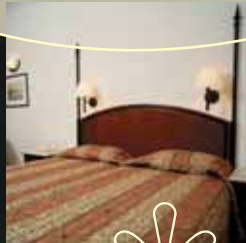


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Location

The Golden Crown Hotel is situated at the southern entrance to Nazareth - one of the loveliest and most fascinating cities in the world - alongside the Mount of the Precipice and overlooking the marvelous landscapes of the picturesque Jezreel Valley.

The hotel, which is suited for individuals, groups, holiday makers and business travelers, conventions, workshops and seminars, is but a short walk away from historical Nazareth and its holy sites.

Restaurant & Lobby

The "King's Table," serving 3 meals a day: Israeli-style breakfast buffets combining the local tastes and produce of Nazareth and the Jezreel Valley with a cornucopia of fresh and rich spices and delicacies; a broad range of lunch and dinner buffets.

Accommodations

- 243 rooms, including 4 suites
- All the rooms and suites command a marvelous view of the picturesque Jezreel Valley

The Queen's Lounge

A salon-style lounge offering a selection of fresh delicacies every day, including a coffee bar, a selection of drinks, sandwiches and light meals for lunch and dinner and choice cakes and baked goods, intimate corners where business people can host guests and hold meetings.

Lifestyle & Sports

- Spa
- Open-air swimming pool (in summer)
- Children's swimming pool (in summer)
- Fully-equipped gym and health club
- "The Little Prince" Children's Club (stimulating games and activities)

Attractions

- The Old City of Nazareth
- The Basilica of the Annunciation
- The traditional market ("suq")
- Mary's Well and the Church of St. Joseph's Carpentry
- The Synagogue Church (where Jesus preached)
- The Sepphoris (Zippori) archeological site
- Tiberias & the Sea of Galilee
- The Bahá'í Gardens - Haifa

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

ARRIVES IN ISRAEL LEADING DELEGATION OF 35 TOP IT PERSONALITIES



Tzvika Friedman, CEO & President - Alvarion, Senator Coonan, Rudy Lesser, VP Marketing - Alvarion, Oded Milstein, Director of Strategic Projects, James Larsen, Australian Ambassador to Israel

Australia's Federal Minister of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Honourable Helen Coonan arrived in Israel at the head of a high level delegation of the country's business personalities, sponsored by the Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce. Senior level players in the IT and communications industries spent a week in Israel meeting with political, business and technology leaders.

Australia is the twelfth largest IT market in the world and purchases close to \$100 million of Israeli high tech equipment per year. The country also enjoys significant bilateral trade with Israel, totaling some \$500 million USD per year.

During a recent speech to the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Senator Coonan made reference to the traditional Jewish prayer book and commented, "Australia is reading from the same siddur as the Israeli Government in driving investment in communications technology."

The Australian delegation, comprising 36 leading IT and communications figures, includes Cameron Clyne, the Executive General Manager of NAB, Australia's largest bank; Pippa Leary, the Product and Marketing Director of media giant Fairfax Digital; Lynley Marshall, Director of New Media and Digital Services at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Australia's BBC); Peter Smart, Director of Engineering at FOXTEL,

a News Corp communications company; Peter Shore, Chairman of travel guide giant Lonely Planet and world renowned robotics expert Dr. Alex Zelinsky who heads the CSIRO, one of the largest research institutes in the world, with some 6,500 staff.

According to Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce CEO Paul Israel, "Senator Coonan's current visit, heading this prestigious delegation, is a high point of the technology and commercial relations between the two countries. We are confident that the relationships formed during this trip will dramatically increase the IT and communications trade between Israel and Australia".

As well as meetings with Israeli government leaders, including Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Tzippi Livni, Communications Minister Ariel Attias and Knesset Speaker Dalia Itzik, Senator Coonan will meet many of the country's significant technology personalities. The Australian delegation meetings will include visits with Pitango Managing Partner Chemi Peres, RAD Chairman Zohar Zissapel, Alvarion CEO Tzvika Friedman, Bezeq CEO Jacob Gelbard and Comverse CEO Ze'ev Bregman.

NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN RISHPON



In picture from left to right: H.E. Mr. Yaacov Edery, Minister in the P.M. Office, Ambassador Kak-Soo Shin, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and Mrs. Sosan Hong (Shin)

■ On the occasion of the visit to Israel of the Bartolo held a Reception and Award ceremony to Honor recipients for their outstanding work in promoting ties between Portugal and Israel.



DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

■ For the first time since the renewal of diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka in May 2000, a political dialogue was held at the beginning of November in the capital Colombo, with the participation of Israel Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Asia and the Pacific Amos Nadai, Israeli Ambassador in India David Danieli, accredited to Sri Lanka, and the Director of the ministry's Southeast Asia Department.

■ In the course of a three-day official visit, Serbian FM Vuk Draskovic met with FM

Tzipi Livni and signed cooperation agreements between Israel and Serbia.

■ Israel welcomes the signing of the peace accord in Nepal. Israel, along with other states, followed the internal strife in Nepal and regretted the many victims it claimed. At this time of reconciliation in Nepal, Israel would like to convey to the Nepali people its wish that the peace accord that has been achieved will bring long-awaited stability and lead to stronger ties with other states in the world, including Israel.



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Reception and Book Signing for Brazil's Ambassador to Israel

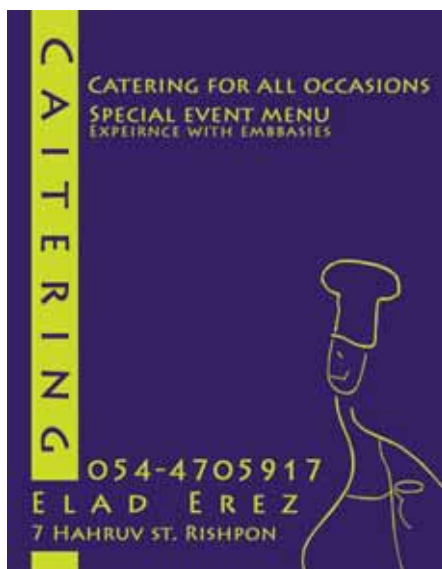
Brazil's Ambassador to Israel, Sergio Moriera Lima threw a beautiful book-signing reception on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at the Horace Richter Gallery, 24 Mazal Arie in Old Jaffa. Copies of the Ambassador's recent book, "A Time for Change", with an introduction by Vice-Prime Minister Shimon Peres were made available to the large crowd, who lined up to meet the Ambassador and have their book signed by him.

Ambassador Sergio Moreira Lima was Ambassador to Israel from 2003 to 2006. There is an interview with Ambassador Moreira Lima in the May-June issue of The Diplomatic Club Magazine. The book contains essays by the Ambassador discussing the challenges and opportunities for Brazil, as well as Brazil's relations with Israel in an historical perspective.

Among the many distinguished guests attending was the Ambassador of Israel to Brazil, Ambassador Tzipora Rimon. A wonderful time was had by all.

Festive Opening of the newly rebuilt Embassy of the Czech Republic

The festive opening of the newly rebuilt Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tel Aviv will take place with a reception on Thursday, September 14, 2006. After one year of reconstruction works at a cost of more than 2 million USD, the Chancery at 23, Zeitlin St., reopens for business. The date of the opening commemorates the 120th birthday of Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk – Czech diplomat, statesman, and a friend of Israel. A multimedia exhibition dedicated to Jan Masaryk will be inaugurated in the Chancery foyer. ■



33rd ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

In December, 1991, the preamble of the treaties with the dismembered Soviet Union, under Mikhail Gorbachev, and Russia, represented by Boris Yeltsin, apologized officially for the 1956 Soviet actions in Hungary. This apology was repeated by Yeltsin in 1992 during a speech to the Hungarian parliament.

On February 13, 2006, the US State Department commemorated the Fiftieth anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. US Secretary of State Rice commented on the contributions made by 1956 Hungarian refugees to the United States and other host countries, as well as the role of Hungary in providing refuge to East Germans during the 1989 protests against communist rule. President George W. Bush also visited Hungary on June 22, 2006, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary.

After the fall of the communist regime, the Republic of Hungary was declared on October 23, 1989, the 33rd anniversary of the Revolution, and Imre Nagy's body was reburied with full honors. October 23 is a Hungarian national holiday.

On this occasion Ambassador of Hungary and Mrs. Aniko Gyenge held the National Day Reception followed by a Festive Concert, conducted by Maestro Gabor Hollerung (Hungary) with the Pianist Jozef Balog (Hungary).

Pictue made by Zwi Tiberius Keller





Reuven Rubin, Self-Portrait, 1914,
oil on canvas, Private collection

EARLY WORKS OF REUVEN RUBIN

PRESENTED AT THE ISRAEL MUSEUM
FOR FIRST-TIME DISPLAY

Jerusalem, November 8, 2006 - The Israel Museum presents *Prophets and Visionaries: Reuven Rubin's Early Years: 1914-23*, an exhibition that offers the public an unprecedented opportunity to study works from the hitherto largely unexplored early years of Israel's artistic icon Reuven Rubin (1893-1974).

The exhibition illuminates the early period of Rubin's work, from 1914 when he lived and worked in Romania through his very first works in Palestine in 1923. On view from November 16, 2006, through June 30, 2007, *Prophets and Visionaries* features some 50 works by Rubin, from collections in Israel and abroad and from the collection of the Israel Museum, highlighting a number of works, that are on display for the first time.

"Although much is known about the art that Rubin created in the Land of Israel after his immigration in 1923, very little attention has been paid to the period of some nine years, beginning in 1914, during which he worked primarily in his native country of Romania", states James Snyder, Director of the Israel Museum. "This exhibition showcases Rubin's early and previously unknown efforts and proves them to be powerful works in their own right, presenting the young Rubin as a complex modern artist who treated his subjects with originality and audacity.

One of the first Israeli artists to achieve international recognition, Romanian-born Reuven Rubin studied briefly at the Bezalel School of Art in Jerusalem in 1912-13, before moving to Paris and then to Romania, where he lived between 1916 and 1921. After a time in New York, Rubin immigrated permanently to Israel in 1923, where he continued his artistic career. In 1973 he was recognized with

Israel's most prestigious national award, the Israel Prize, for his achievements in the fine arts.

Prophets and Visionaries examines Rubin's early paintings and sculptures, which tended to focus on religious themes, both from Christian and Jewish sources. Among the works on public display for the first time are *Self-Portrait, 1914*, Rubin's earliest known self-portrait, and *Elijah and the False Prophets, 1922*.



Reuven Rubin, *Elijah and the False Prophets*, 1922, oil on canvas, 1,85 m x 1,6 m, Private Collection

"Culminating five years of research, this exhibition and accompanying catalogue permit the public to discover a body of material that has never before been assembled for public view", says curator Amitai Mendelsohn. "The works from this period hold a special fascination, exploring in a modernist visual language Rubin's views on themes in Christianity, Judaism and Zionism".

Concurrent with the Israel Museum's presentation *Prophets and Visionaries*, the Tel Aviv Museum presents *Dream Land: Reuven Rubin and the Encounter with the Land of Israel* in his Paintings of the 1920s and 1930s. A special reduced entrance fee applies to visits to both exhibitions.

The Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the leading art and archaeology museums in the world. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses encyclopedic collections ranging from prehistory through contemporary art. They include the most extensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world, among them the Dead Sea Scrolls. In just forty years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from its circle of patrons worldwide. It has established itself as an internationally valued institution and a singularly rich cultural resource for Israel, the Middle East, and the world.

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Finding the best specialist physician for the customer's problem, based on an objective database of specialists.

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For more details, please contact the Diplomatic Club Management in Israel: Telephone 972-3-5622061/2 or e-mail: Julia@diplomacy-club.com

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Centre national de renseignements téléphoniques pour la santé de l'enfant, de la femme et de la famille et conseils pharmacologiques et psychologiques

Centre national de renseignements téléphoniques assuré par des médecins spécialistes supérieurs qui donnent des conseils par téléphone selon leur domaine d'expertise (24 h sur 24) tous les jours de l'année, afin de répondre aux questions fréquemment posées dans les domaines de santé auxquelles se heurtent de nombreuses familles.

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DR. TENZER: ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS



Dr. Ron Tenzer, Plastic Surgeon

Board Certified by the Israeli board of plastic surgery. Dr. Tenzer received his medical degree from the University of Tel Aviv. He completed his plastic surgery residency from "Belinson" Hospital and "Carmel" Hospital in Israel. He then continued his plastic and reconstructive surgery residency in Europe and the United States. Dr. Tenzer acts as a consultant in plastic surgery to "Maci" one of the largest health care institutions in Israel. He is the head of two clinics in Israel in Natania and Tel Aviv.

Q: I am 40 years old and I love to sunbathe. I recently discovered that I have pigment problems and some new wrinkles. Which medical treatment / surgery do you recommend to improve the texture of my sun-damaged skin? (M.S. Tel Aviv)

A: Sun rays aggravate and accelerate the process of skin aging as well as causing further skin damage such as dry and flakey skin, dark marks and feint wrinkles.

The skin aging process is characterized by face sagging which happens due to absorption of skin tissue and the bone, loss of elasticity in the skin, tissue sagging in the cheeks, eye-lids and neck and the formation of wrinkles caused by the face muscles – on the forehead and crows feet by the sides of the eyes for example.

One way of treating these problems is by skin peeling and adding volume to the skin tissue. The upcoming winter months provide a great opportunity for experiencing different facial treatments; skin peeling being the focus.

Q: I am considering a peeling treatment but as I understand there are different treatments and I'm not sure which treatment is best for me. What are my options and what is the difference between the verity of methods and treatments? (G.C Tel Aviv)

A: There are two methods of skin peeling; chemicals or laser treatment. Different depths of treatment will bring different results: light peeling of the skin's top layer only will result in revitalizing this tissue and so give a young and vibrant glow to the skin. Intermediate peeling will remove the skin's top layers as well as sun spots, reduce face wrinkles and give the skin a new look. Deep peeling will also improve the deeper wrinkles on the skin.

The length of the peeling process and recuperation period depends on the type of peeling executed and the method chosen; it ranges from a few days to a number of weeks. Most face peeling treatments take place in the clinic with no need for anesthetics or hospitalization.

After the peeling itself, it is important to take care of skin with the assistance of a medical cosmetician. During the peeling, or as a separate session, you have the opportunity to add volume to the skins tissues using different substances which replete dents and wrinkles in the skin and aid the skin in looking younger and healthier.

The first step in the process is a consultancy session with the Doctor where together, the preferred type of treatment is chosen.

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