

“I WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THE RABBI’S MESSAGE”

A delegation of Crown Heights dignitaries visited Washington, D.C. recently to lobby the American government on behalf of Israel. Rabbi Leibel Groner, a former member of the Lubavitcher Rebbe’s secretariat, headed the delegation, which was comprised of Crown Heights Jewish Community Council Members Nochum Gross, Yaakov Herzog and Chanina Sperlin. The group met with David Scott, a high-ranking National Security Administration official and an assistant to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, in light of the worsening crisis situation in Israel and as an expression of the deep identification Diaspora Jews have with the Jews of the Holy Land.

In the course of their brief meeting, Rabbi Groner spoke about the Lubavitcher Rebbe’s position on *Shleimus Ha’Aretz* and emphasized that the Rebbe had strongly opposed concessions to terrorists. Referring to



Exiting the White House
(From right to left): Rabbi Groner, Herzog, Sperlin, and Gross

recent battles between Israeli troops and Arab terrorists, Groner pointed out that as soon as the IDF forces left areas they had entered, the terrorists immediately emerged to wreak further death and destruction. “The sole method for vanquishing terror is to fight until it’s eradicated,” said the rabbi.

Herzog criticized the double standard by which the U.S. “was able to mercilessly attack Afghanistan, while Arafat is rewarded for terror.”

Scott said he would convey their message to the highest echelons, and asked the delegation to keep in touch. “I was happy to hear the message of the greatest Jewish leader, the Lubavitcher Rebbe,” he said.

The following day, President George W. Bush made a statement regarding Israel, saying, “[Israeli Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon is a man of peace,” and that Israel was justified in its approach towards Arafat.

ANASH PUBLICIZE REBBE’S POSITION ON SHLEIMUS HA’ARETZ

Many Anash members in Israel have recently been working on distributing material and hanging signs all across the country expressing the Rebbe’s position on *Shleimus Ha’Aretz*, the danger of negotiations and the necessity of finishing the war on terror.

Rabbi Shlomo Shemida hung about 100 signs in Jerusalem on porches and main streets, as did Shabsi Bloch in the north. Others engaged in similar activity elsewhere in the country.

At the end of last week, the “Save

the Nation and the Land” Campaign came to an agreement with an advertising agency to print and mount 500 ten-foot-wide signs on the roads between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and Tel Aviv and Hadera and fifty twenty-foot-wide signs were hung on overpasses along those same highways.

On Lag B’Omer, a large truck decorated with signs 25 feet long slowly made its way from Kiryat Shemona in the north to Jerusalem, and was seen by tens of thousands of people. A

motorized balloon flew over Miron bearing the words: “The Lubavitcher Rebbe: The entire Eretz Yisroel belongs solely to the Jewish people/Political negotiations=the endangerment of millions of Jews/ The Torah says, ‘He who comes to kill you, rise to kill first.’”

Rabbi Zimroni Tzik said that the costs of the weekend campaign alone cost \$8000, and appealed to his listeners to recruit concerned, wealthy people.

A MIRACLE IN NIKOLAYEVICH

The wave of anti-Semitism plaguing Jews in Europe affects apparently shluchim, too.

Rabbi Sholom Gottlieb, the Lubavitcher Rebbe's shliach to Nikolayevich, Russia, was sitting in his office on a recent Friday when a large stone smashed through his window, shattering it entirely. As he jumped to safety, the stone landed on the chair he had just vacated.

Two Lubavitchers were injured recently in a Kiev attack. An anonymous bomb threat was phoned in to Moscow's Marina Roscha Synagogue. Two bachurim assisting Chabad of Berlin were assaulted by Arabs on that city's streets, and Rabbi Abraham Berkowitz, Director of the Federation of Jewish Communities of the C.I.S., was assaulted during a recent visit to Belgium. In France, two school busses belonging to Chabad mosdos were firebombed and destroyed, injuring two schoolchildren.

Rabbi Gottlieb told *Beis Moshiach* what he is doing to try to ensure the

safety of Jewish citizens:

"The big miracle is that in my office there are double windows, and so I heard the sound of the first window breaking and then saw the stone



Gottlieb points to his broken window

sailing through the air. I immediately called the police, and, at my request, they put a 24-hour guard on the shul, the school, the shluchim's homes and all Jewish centers in the city."

"There was a press conference on Sunday together with the chief of police. The mayor promised to apprehend the anti-Semites who attacked the shul, and the police chief asserted that he would not allow the perpetration of anti-Semitic acts in Nikolayevich. I mentioned that the mayor had assured us he would protect the reverence of the city in which our Rebbe was born 100 years ago."

Later in the week there was a "Day of Solidarity" with the Jews in Israel, which drew the participation of government representatives and distinguished members of the Jewish community. The Israeli ambassador to the Ukraine spoke at the gathering via telephone to lend his encouragement, and in his speech, Gottlieb emphasized that "We cannot give in to terrorists," and announced a grand Lag B'Omer parade. "I think that after that

[event], people were no longer afraid; we hope that this was the last act of open anti-Semitism here in Nikolayevich, and in the world."

RABBI YAAKOV ZALMAN BLAU, A"H

Rabbi Yaakov Zalman Blau, a respected member of Jerusalem's Chabad community, recently and suddenly passed away at the age of 74.

Rabbi Blau was born in Jerusalem in 1928 to the distinguished Blau family, which claims a long line of Lubavitcher Chassidim. His father's grandfather was Rabbi Yeshaya Horenstein, a Chassid of the Tzemach Tzedek, and through his mother, he descended from Rabbi Zalman Rivlin, a Chasid of the Alter Rebbe, the Mittlerer Rebbe and the Tzemach Tzedek.

Rabbi Blau was orphaned at age four and was raised in the Diskin Orphanage Home. He studied later in Jerusalem's Toras Emes yeshiva. After his marriage, he worked for some time as an electrician but stopped because he wanted to adhere carefully to the



tznius laws, and turned to the scribal arts.

In the course of his long life, he merited several private audiences with the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and received many letters from the Rebbe instructing him to disseminate Chassidus. In response to these letters, Rabbi Blau initiated and taught several Chassidus *shiurim*, and studied a great deal of Chassidus himself.

When he wanted to leave the sacred field after many years, he wrote a letter to the Lubavitcher Rebbe about his pending decision. The Rebbe responded in writing that "there weren't many G-d fearing sofrim [in the industry, implying that he was one of the few]", and so he continued writing *Stam* for many more years.

He will be sorely missed by the Jerusalem and worldwide Anash community.

LUBAVITCHER YESHIVA LAG B'OMER BONFIRE

What a sight it was as Lubavitcher Yeshiva of Crown Heights hosted its annual Lag B'omer bonfire. Hundreds of children from the neighbourhood gathered together to recite the 12 pesukim and watch a video of the Rebbe as a fire



story teller, Rabbi Barnett, a Rebbi of

refreshments were served. As the evening came to an end, Rabbi Y. Y. Simpson, principal of the Yeshiva, awarded the honour roll prizes.



Once again the annual Lubavitcher Yeshiva bonfire was an exciting event that left

15 foot high illuminated the block and the skies above. The renowned the Yeshiva, treated the children to a sensational story as light

the children inspired by the aura of Lag B'Omer.