



# Plenum Insider

Monday, February 18, 2002

Issue #1

Jewish Council for Public Affairs Plenum 2002  
Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Plenum 2002 – Highlights From Sunday

## MELCHIOR, ROSS URGE UNITY IN FACE OF ANTI-SEMITISM, ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON -- Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, called for worldwide Jewish unity to combat anti-Semitism. Speaking to more than 800 delegates from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the Hillel Spitzer Forum, Melchior said, "There will not be a peace in the Middle East unless there is a peace between the peoples." Ambassador Dennis Ross, former peace negotiator and current fellow at the Washington Institute For Near East Policy, echoed Melchior. "We focused too much on negotiations and too little on publics." Ross reiterated his plan to end the current violence by giving Palestinian Authority leader Yaser Arafat 10 days to carry out arrests, dismantle terror groups, and confiscate weapons. Ross urged delegates to demonstrate their support for Israel. "If you are a supporter of Israel, go to Israel. If you are a supporter of peace, go to Israel. There has to be a demonstration to show that violence does not work."



Amb. Dennis Ross, Len Cole, and Rabbi Michael Melchior

### Outgoing JCPA Chair Honored

Delegates honored outgoing JCPA Chair Leonard Cole, of New Jersey, at a reception on Sunday for his dedication to the organization and the hundreds of hours of his time that he devoted to his role as Chair this year. Cole announced that Michael Bohnen, an active JCPA member from Boston, will succeed him as Chair. Cole now moves on to serve as president of the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

### Preview of Monday's Plenary Events

8:00 am – Congressional A & B

#### The War on Terrorism: Balancing Security and Civil Liberties

Featuring the ACLU's Anthony Romero, Steven L. Pomerantz of the AJC, and former Justice Department official Victoria Toensing.

10:15 am – Grand Ballroom

#### Eradicating Poverty in America: Strategies for Building a More Secure Future

with Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund founder.

4:45 pm – Grand Ballroom

#### Albert D. Chernin Award

Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Supreme Court



## LATEST NEWS FROM JTA:

Israeli military aircraft struck Palestinian Authority targets in the West Bank after a suicide attack killed two teens.

The Vatican warned that if Israel allows a controversial mosque to be built in Nazareth it will damage relations between Jews and Christians worldwide.

A controversy erupted in France over a poster for a new film by director Costa-Gavras that deals with the silence of Pope Pius XII in the face of the Holocaust.

The average American Jewish family with children must spend about 40 percent of its income to participate fully in Jewish life, according to an American Jewish Committee study.

The White House referred to the Palestinian Authority as one of a number of regimes that "invite terrorism and that practice terrorism."

The leader of the Claims Conference says he will not seek re-election.

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