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With respect to the positions of several administrations on the question of Israel, there are two things that bring them into line: One is pressure from members of Congress who bring that pressure resulting in the demands of AIPAC, and the other is the desire on the part of the President and his advisers to keep their respective political parties from crumbling under that pressure. I do not recall a single instance where any administration saw the need for Israel's military power to advance U.S. Imperial interests. In fact, as we saw in the Gulf War, Israel's involvement was detrimental to what Bush, Sr. wanted to accomplish in that war. They had, as you might remember, to suppress any Israeli assistance so that the coalition would not be destroyed by their involvement. ...

I suppose one could argue that Bush's encouragement of Israel in the Lebanon war this summer was the result of some imperial urge, but it was merely an extension of the U.S. policy of helping Israel because of the Lobby's continual pressure. In fact, I heard not one voice of opposition to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon this summer (except Chuck Hagel). Lebanon always has been a "throw away" country so far as the congress is concerned, that is, what happens there has no effect on U.S. interests. There is no Lebanon Lobby. The same was true in 1982, when the Congress fell completely silent over the invasion that year.

I think in the heart of hearts of both members of congress and of the administrations they would prefer not to have Israel fouling things up for U.S. foreign policy, which is to keep oil flowing to the Western world to prevent an economic depression. But what our policy makers do is to juggle the Lobby's pressure on them to support Israel with keeping the oil countries from cutting off oil to the western nations. So far they've been able to do that. With the exception of King Feisal and his oil embargo, there hasn't been a Saudi leader able to stand up to U.S. policy.

So I believe that divestment, and especially cutting off U.S. aid to Israel would immediately result in Israel's giving up the West Bank and leaving the Gaza to the Palestinians. Such pressure would work, I think, because the Israeli public would be able to determine what is causing their misery and would demand that an immediate peace agreement be made with the Palestinians. ... One need only look at the objectives of the Israeli Lobby to determine how to best change their minds. The Lobby's principal objectives are to keep money flowing from the U.S. treasury to Israel, requiring a docile congress and a compliant administration. As Willie Sutton once said, "That's where the money is."

Jim Abourezk

AIPAC – The Lobby – and YOU

Jim Abourezk on the Israel Lobby

<http://www.spinwatch.org/content/view/3767/29/>

Democrat, US Representative and US Senator, Jim Abourezk represented South Dakota in the U.S. Senate from 1973 until 1979.

I can tell you from personal experience that, at least in the Congress, the support Israel has in that body is based completely on political fear—fear of defeat by anyone who does not do what Israel wants done. I can also tell you that very few members of Congress—at least when I served there—have any affection for Israel or for its Lobby. What they have is contempt, but it is silenced by fear of being found out exactly how they feel. I've heard too many cloakroom conversations in which members of the Senate will voice their bitter feelings about how they're pushed around by the Lobby to think otherwise. In private one hears the dislike of Israel and the tactics of the Lobby, but not one of them is willing to risk the Lobby's animosity by making their feelings public. ...



The Lobby is quite clear in its efforts to suppress any congressional dissent from the policy of complete support for Israel which might hurt annual appropriations. Even one voice is attacked, as I was, on grounds that if Congress is completely silent on the issue, the press will have no one to quote, which effectively silences the press as well. Any journalists or editors who step out of line are quickly brought under control by well organized economic pressure against the newspaper caught sinning.

I once made a trip through the Middle East, taking with me a reporter friend who wrote for Knight-Ridder newspapers. He was writing honestly about what he saw with respect to the Palestinians and other countries bordering on Israel. The St. Paul Pioneer press executives received threats from several of their large advertisers that their advertising would be terminated if they continued publishing the journalist's articles. It's a lesson quickly learned by those who controlled the paper.

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Wheels of Justice will turn at Andover High

Colin Steele, Staff writer, North Andover Eagle-Tribune
http://www.eagletribune.com/local/local_story_341120458?page=0

The Wheels of Justice, a pro-Palestinian group banned from Andover High School in October, will be allowed to address students after all.



The group will come to Andover High for one in a series of three forums, each featuring a different perspective on Middle East conflicts, Principal Peter Anderson said in a statement released yesterday.

Anderson canceled the first planned visit by Wheels of Justice after the Anti-Defamation League, Rabbi Robert Goldstein of Temple Emanuel and others called the group "extremist" and "anti-Israel."

Anderson's two-paragraph statement yesterday marked his first comments on the controversy.

"It was never my intent to stifle the educational process," he said. "My goal has been to ensure that the presentation of the information resulted in a positive learning experience for our students."

Anderson changed his mind because of a combination of legal and educational issues, School Committee lawyer Naomi Stonberg said.

"We thought this would be in the best interests of all parties involved," she said.

Goldstein said he was not happy about Anderson's decision because he would have preferred one forum where speakers on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could have debated and asked questions of each other. He called the Wheels of Justice visit "worthless" and said the group has "questionable educational merit."

But, he added, "I'm glad to hear that there will be an opposing view offered, one that is more supportive of Israel. I hope it will not be someone who will do to the Palestinians what Wheels of Justice does to Israel."

Teachers union President Tom Meyers was one of six social studies teachers who organized the first planned Wheels of Justice visit. When Anderson canceled that event, Meyers enlisted help from the American Civil

Liberties Union and threatened a First Amendment lawsuit against the school.

Meyers could not be reached for comment yesterday. Ron Francis, an Andover High physics teacher and pro-Palestinian activist, declined to comment specifically on Anderson's decision to now allow Wheels of Justice.

"I support the First Amendment, I will say that," he said. "Actions that violate the First Amendment rights of people in the United States are not acceptable."

Andover High has not set a date for the Wheels of Justice visit or the other planned forums, Stonberg said. The school is "still working out" who the speakers will be at those events, she said.



Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh of *Wheels of Justice Tour* gave a presentation at a Somerville town meeting on the *Right of Return* of Palestinian refugees. Mazin was invited to speak by SDP, the group responsible for insuring that the community could discuss the issue in a public forum. Mazin holds the round end of the key; he is a former Duke and Yale University genetics professor, and author of *Sharing the Land of Canaan*.