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# Conference looks a lot like Israel's reward for behaving during Gulf War

**O**N MATTERS relating to Israeli and

American/Western involvement in the Middle East, hardly any amount of suspicion and skepticism is unwarranted. The historical record is a far better guide than daily statements of politicians now exercising power - and the historical record is damning.

Thus someone needs to articulate what many of us are afraid of, no matter how small this cry in the wilderness might be. Is it possible that the long-time U.S. -Israeli marriage is not really on the rocks, but just undergoing a mid-age adjustment? That there's now room for a bit of Washington moonlighting even as Jerusalem remains fully confident that each evening, though sometimes the clock stretches into the early morning hours, long-time partner America can be counted on to come home to its own bed?

Is it possible, just possible, that the spat between Washington and Jerusalem is more for the benefit of the relatives and other suitors than for real?

Is it possible, just possible, that all the hoopla of U.S. - Israeli confrontation of recent days is more orchestrated than actual, more political theatrics than serious schism, and that much of what's going on is really designed to woo the Arab parties so they'll do what the married parties, strategizing together as well as on their own, in the end want them to do?

Admittedly, this isn't a very popular line of thought these days - especially not in the establishment press. And the verdict on this won't be in for some time, maybe many years. Even then the situation may be so politically convoluted (maybe polluted as well) that even key analysts will be confused by what has happened. Remember Camp David? Just mention the two words - the term itself has taken on a historical life of its own.

Is George Bush not to be trusted? Can't we accept the

By  
**Mark A. Bruzonsky**



## FROM WASHINGTON

daily reportorial episodes in our big papers? Do we always have to be skeptical of those in power who claim to be leading us forward to a brave new world?

The reality is that George Bush has brought the art of political theatre to new heights of sophistication. He has merged the Reagan style of performing to the cameras with the actual attributes of Presidential power which Bush quite uniquely prepared himself to wield for many decades.

In this kind of a world, we've all become too gullible in recent years; we've all grown a bit too complacent, accepting the slogans of the day and the cute phrases of the politicians of the moment; we've all gotten too lazy in not going back and examining inconsistencies of the past, deceptions of the moment, and lies that interlace today's art of governing.

Any serious historical examination of the complexities that today surround international high politics - mostly in relationship to matters of the Middle East - would lead one to conclude that cover-up, distortion, and obfuscation have been by far the rule rather than the exception.

And thus it's likely that the

current "peace process" is no exception. Even the term itself is purposefully designed to mask the real American role in the Middle East and the basic realities of tension and even potential war preparations that are still going on between Israel and some of the Arab states.

For at the end of the day - everything said and done and analyzed - there's something just a bit too convenient, just a bit too timely about this taddo between the U.S. and Israel erupting; as if on schedule, right at the very historical moment that a major international peace conference is supposed to be launched, right in advance of the need for maximum American pressure on the Arab regimes and on the Palestinians to swallow hard and offer up basic historic concessions that will make possible the kind of peace conference the Americans have been nudging forward.

With such suspicious timing, a basic question is how should this supposed schism between

about what the parties are really up to rather than what they are saying; adjusting of course as we go and as more insights become available.

The old adage, judge by one's actions rather than by one's words, should of course be the guiding one in these circumstances. And while the Bush/Baker words have gotten better; actions remain far, far behind and usually contradictory.

We do know the following:

Israel and the U.S. have cooperated in all kinds of deals and tricks for decades. There's even evidence that the U.S. directly, though clandestinely, intervened to help Israel win the 1967 war and take over what we today call the Occupied Territories.

Israel manipulated the U.S. during the years of the Iran-Iraq war to keep the two parties at each other's throats, prevent any victor, and drain the resources and strength of both sides.

Israel was the primary party that pushed the U.S. into destroying Iraq, and the biggest winner in the region.

The American and Israeli power structures are known to be

intertwined - and right at the heart of the Bush Administration are key Israeli-oriented personalities (long-time Kissinger proteges to boot) Brent Scowcroft and Larry Eagleburger. Indeed, the smell of Kissingerian manipulation behind-the-scenes is everywhere.

Add a few further educated guesses and speculations along the following lines:

Both the U.S. and Israel are well aware that the projected international peace conference bears little resemblance to the one long-discussed - and about that the Israelis must be thrilled, no matter what they say in public.

This "international conference" is to be under American dominance and

## The projected peace conference is nearly totally weighted in Israel's favor.

Washington and Jerusalem be viewed by those hopeful that it might be for real - or thinking that maybe it can be made to be real - but skeptical in view of the realities of history and the realities of the American-Israel marriage?

Whatever the real deep hidden truths about this situation - and these understandably are known to very few who are not likely to tell - there are tangible political realities that point to the possibility, even the likelihood, that a gigantic historical deception could be underway.

Those of us not privy to the inner sanctums of governing have to try to figure out this puzzling situation by examining history, by reasoning things through, and by hypothesizing