

▲ Viewpoint

from Page 5

Israel Defense Forces having to reoccupy Gaza, like the IDF did in the West Bank in April 2002. But Hamas must first take a military bashing to put Gazans into the frame of mind that will allow for some type of negotiations. Up to now, Gazans have thought that they could rocket Israel with impunity. They were taught this by Israel's three-year forbearance to an onslaught of more than 6,000 rockets.

Now isn't the time to ease up on Hamas. It's not a question of who is a "real friend" of Israel. It's simply a

matter of recognizing that Israel faces an implacable enemy who must be deterred. Only the humiliation of Hamas and a major reduction of its power will restore Israel's formerly fearsome status. That may or may not lead to the acceptance of Israel by the Arabs, but it will keep the wolf away from the door for the foreseeable future, provided that a solution is found for Iran's appetite for nuclear weapons and Israel's destruction.

Stephen Kramer resided and worked in the Atlantic City area until 1991, when he moved to Israel with his wife, Michal Langweiler, and two sons. He can be reached at Sjk1@jhu.edu.

▲ Dimensions

from Page 4

honoring the Dalai Lama who is considered a separatist by Chinese leaders. General Chen Bingde, chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army, and other generals met with Admiral Keating and urged the United States to stop selling weapons to Taiwan, which Beijing considers a breakaway province. Bingde also said that the United States should not be concerned with China's military capacity, "We don't have the ability to make you afraid of us."

• **March 11, 2008. Beijing.** China's top population official said that the country's one-child-per-family policy would not change for at least another decade. Zhang Weiqing, minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, explained the reasons why China, with more than 1.3 billion people, will adhere to the enforcement of a three-decade long program to restrict population growth. "The current family planning policy, formed as a result of gradual changes in the past two decades, has proved compatible with national conditions. So it has to be kept unchanged at this time to ensure stable and balanced population growth." Zhang added that 200 million people would enter childbearing age during the next decade. "Given such a large population base, there would be major fluctuations in population growth if we abandoned the one-child rule now. It would cause serious problems and add extra pressure on social and economic development."

Most urban couples are limited to a single child, while farmers are often allowed to have two. Critics say the policy has led to numerous abuses including forced abortions and female infanticide. Government officials say that about 400 million births have been prevented while independent scientists cite a figure closer to 250 million births. China Daily reported the population was growing by up to 17 million people a year. Today, China has a rapidly aging society and the work

force may not be endless. Factories have reported shortages of young workers in recent years. And the one-child policy may be contributing to a gender imbalance with a ratio of fewer women.

• **Mid-March, 2008. Beijing.** Chinese government security forces began a crackdown on demonstrators in Tibet, reporting 19 rioters killed. Tibetan exile groups said more than 140 people were killed. A series of violent confrontations erupted between Tibetan protestors and the police in western China. Chinese leaders have spoken in harsh language against the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, while Western leaders have called upon the governing Communist Party to resume a dialogue with him. The Dalai Lama has lived in India since 1959, overseeing 100,000 Tibetan refugees in the country. India considers Tibet to be a part of China and treats the Dalai Lama as a spiritual rather than a political leader. He is forbidden to carry out anti-Chinese agitation on Indian soil.

Demonstrations and rallies spread through Chinese cities to protest Western media, like CNN, and French newspapers that supported the Tibetan uprising. The government called for order, but did not act to halt the public demonstrations. The state run People's Daily wrote, "As citizens, we have the responsibility to express our patriotic enthusiasm calmly and rationally and to express patriotic aspiration in an orderly manner." Chinese demonstrators continued to march in different cities, carrying banners that said, "Oppose Tibet Independence" and "Condemn CNN" according to the official News Agency.

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Joyce S. Anderson's articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and other national publications. She is the author of "Courage in High Heels," "Flaw in the Tapestry," "If Winter Comes" and "The Mermaids Singing." She can be reached at JSWrite@aol.com.

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