



# Israel Viewpoint

◆ STEPHEN KRAMER Jewish Times Israel Correspondent



## Netanyahu's Blunt Truth

### Last of 11 Parts

Prime Minister Netanyahu's recent policy speech treaded a fine line between trying to satisfy the Obama Administration's strictures, Netanyahu's right-wing coalition members, and the left-wing opposition. Though the speech has engendered much criticism, it generally was successful in buying time for Israel and putting the Palestinians on the defensive. Below are quotes from the latter part of the prime minister's speech, with my comments.

**Quote:** "The Palestinians are not showing us that they want to end the conflict. ... A great many people are telling us that withdrawal is the key to peace with the Palestinians. But the fact is that all our withdrawals were met by huge waves of suicide bombers. ... We

withdrew from the Gaza Strip to the last centimeter, we uprooted dozens of settlements and turned thousands of Israelis out of their homes. In exchange, what we received were missiles raining down on our cities, our towns and our children. The argument that withdrawal would bring peace closer did not stand up to the test of reality. ... With Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north, they keep on saying that they want to 'liberate' Ashkelon in the south and Haifa and Tiberias."

*By citing recent history, Netanyahu deftly illustrated the futility of the land for peace formula.*

**Quote:** "Even the moderates among the Palestinians are not ready to say the simplest things: The State of Israel is the national homeland of the Jewish People and will remain

so. ... We need the Palestinian leadership to rise and say, simply 'We have had enough of this conflict. We recognize the right of the Jewish People to a state of its own in this Land. We will live side by side in true peace.' I am looking forward to this moment. ... The fundamental condition for ending the conflict is the public, binding and sincere Palestinian recognition of Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish People."

*Netanyahu emphasized the indispensable fact of Israel as the Jewish state – the birthplace of the Jewish people – a fact which the Palestinians must accept or there will never be a peace agreement.*

**Quote:** "The right of the Jewish People to a state in the Land of Israel does not arise from the series of disasters that befell the Jewish People over 2,000 years – persecutions, expulsions, pogroms, blood libels, murders, which reached its climax in the Holocaust, an unprecedented tragedy in the history of nations. There are those who say that without the Holocaust the State would not have been established, but I say that if the State of Israel had

been established in time, the Holocaust would not have taken place."

*In contrast to President Obama's speech in Cairo, which identified the Holocaust as the genesis of modern Israel, Netanyahu puts the cart before the horse, citing the need of a Jewish state for the protection of Jews worldwide.*

**Quote:** "We need a clear agreement to solve the Palestinian refugee problem outside of the borders of the State of Israel. For it is clear to all that the demand to settle the Palestinian refugees inside of Israel, contradicts the continued existence of the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish People. We must solve the problem of the Arab refugees. And I believe that it is possible to solve it. Because we have proven that we ourselves solved a similar problem. Tiny Israel took in the hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab countries who were uprooted from their homes. Therefore, justice and logic dictates that the problem of the

Palestinian refugees must be solved outside the borders of the State of Israel. There is broad national agreement on this."

*In a short, pointed statement, Netanyahu totally discredited any Palestinian return of refugees to Israel through history, justice and logic.*

**Quote:** "Any area in Palestinian hands has to be demilitarized, with solid security measures. Without this condition, there is a real fear that there will be an armed Palestinian state which will become a terrorist base against Israel, as happened in Gaza. ... And, to ensure peace we don't want them to bring in missiles or rockets or have an army, or control of airspace, or make treaties with countries like Iran, or [groups like] Hizbullah. There is broad agreement on this in Israel. We cannot be expected to agree to a Palestinian state without ensuring that it is demilitarized. This is crucial to the existence of Israel. We must provide for

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# Ocean City & Pops 2009

WILLIAM SCHEIBLE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## Schedule

**Steve Amerson!**  
Ocean City Music Pier  
Singer Steve Amerson from California brings his national new tour program *Amazed by America to the Music Pier* plus patriotic favorites.  
Sat., July 4  
7:30pm ~ Tickets \$20/12

**Steve Amerson!**  
Ocean City Music Pier  
*American Tribute! Steve Amerson joins the Pops! Also featuring Casey at the Bat.*  
Sun., July 5  
8:00pm ~ Tickets \$20/12

**Hello Dolly!**  
Hughes Performing Arts Center  
6th St. & Atlantic Ave.  
(4 shows only!) Fully staged Broadway musical (winner of 10 Tony Awards and almost 3,000 nonstop performances) directed by Michael Hartman.  
Tues.-Thurs., July 7, 8 & 9  
8:00pm • Matinee Thurs 2:00 pm  
Tickets \$25



Steve Amerson



Steve Amerson





**Carmina Burana!**  
Hughes Performing Arts Center 6th St. & Atlantic Ave.  
Joining the POPS and Maestro Scheible are the Brandywine Singers Chorale, tenor Jeffrey Halili, baritone Christopher Bolduc and soprano Ailyn Perez.  
Sun., July 12  
8:00pm ~ Tickets \$15



Jeffrey Halili Christopher Bolduc Ailyn Perez

**Hooray for Hollywood!**  
Ocean City Music Pier  
Features talented vocalist Diane Penning in a light program of the greatest songs from countless movies over the years.  
Tues., July 14  
8:00pm ~ Tickets \$15/10



Diane Penning

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Tickets can be purchased at the Music Pier Box Office.  
For information call (609) 525-9248. ext.17 or online at [www.OCNJ.us](http://www.OCNJ.us)