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Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, members of Congress and former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Secretary Gates has said, "We're in the middle of a process of evaluation, really, the decisions the president made in late March to say, 'Have we got the strategy right?' And once we're confident we have the strategy right, then we'll address the question of additional resources."

Vice President Biden, who was against the troop build-up in March, remains committed to a strategy that focuses on destroying al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Pakistan as well as Afghanistan. He cites the use of missile strikes and CIA drone aircraft that have been successful in killing Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders in both countries. Colin Powell, John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, General James Jones, the national security adviser and Rahm Emanuel, the chief of staff, all have expressed degrees of doubt to President Obama about adding forces in Afghanistan. Colin Powell, spoke with reporters before a speech in California. He said, "The question the president has to answer is, 'What will more troops do?' You have to not just add troops. You need a clear definition of your mission and then you can determine whether you need more troops or

other resources." Senator Kerry has warned against repeating the mistakes of Vietnam where he served. "In Vietnam, the underlying assumptions were flawed," he said, "and the number of troops weren't going to make a difference."

"Lessons in Disaster" by Gordon Goldstein and McGeorge Bundy has been called a "must-read book" for President Obama at this crucial decision-making time on Afghanistan. Bundy, the national security adviser for Kennedy and Johnson during the Vietnam war, and Goldstein, a foreign policy scholar, write in the first chapter how a young President Kennedy in 1961 weighed whether to send combat troops into Vietnam during his first months in office. The Joint Chiefs, Secretaries of Defense and State all supported sending combat troops. Only George Ball, the undersecretary of state dissented. Ball predicted, "Within five years we'll have 300,000 men in the paddies and jungles and never find them again." Kennedy finally decided not to authorize combat troops. He restricted the United States' military role to advisory missions. After his death in 1963, that policy was reversed. Goldstein writes, "Counselors advise but presidents decide."

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▲ Boteach

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Carter also told Haitian dictator Raul Cédras that he was "ashamed of what my country has done to your country," which made most Americans ashamed of Jimmy Carter.

From all this I concluded that Jimmy Carter is not an anti-Semite so much as hopelessly naïve and utterly lacking in moral judgment. A well-meaning idiot.

TO BE sure, I received a great deal of criticism from readers who told me I'm the one who is hopelessly naïve. Jimmy Carter is a glaring anti-Semite. Was I blinded by my own theory?

Therefore, when Carter said in 2006 that Israel's policies in the West Bank were actually worse than apartheid South Africa, I began to question whether my readers were right. When he added in his 2009 book *The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy* that due to "powerful political, economic, and religious forces in the US, Israeli government decisions are rarely questioned or condemned, voices from Jerusalem dominate our media," I said to myself that anyone who rolls out the old Jews-control-the-world theory probably is an anti-Semite. And then the clincher seemed to be Carter's recent pronouncement that "the key factor that prevents peace is the continuing

building of Israeli settlements in Palestine, driven by a determined minority of Israelis who desire to occupy and colonize east Jerusalem and the West Bank."

You mean Palestinian terrorism, Arab aversion to democracy, and 60 years of Arab wars to annihilate Israel had nothing to do with the absence of peace? Surely this man was a bigot! And yet, something inside still told me that Carter didn't harbor any unnatural hostility to Jews.

I was therefore delighted to chance upon Prof. Alan Dershowitz's outstanding series of articles detailing the millions of dollars that Carter has personally and institutionally accepted from leading Arab sources, including Saudi King Fahd, the now-defunct BCCI bank, Shiekh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, and Agha Hasan Abedi, among others. These millions, some of which even went to bail out the Carter peanut business in the late 1970s, finally vindicated my earlier theory.

Jimmy Carter is not an anti-Semite. He is simply a man with a price.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach is the founder of This World: The Values Network. His newest book is 'The Michael Jackson Tapes: A Tragic Icon Reveals His Soul in Intimate Conversation.'

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