



## Max M. Kampelman Papers

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Development Corporation For Israel

# ISRAEL BONDS

**AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

18 November 1993

Ambassador Max Kampelman  
3145 Highland Place NW  
Washington, DC 20008

My dear Max,

Once more, dear friend, an important public event -- the Israel Bonds dinner last evening -- has provided the occasion when you have conveyed sentiments so gracious and generous as to move me powerfully and deeply.

Your own legacy -- to America, to mankind, and to the Jewish people -- is firmly enshrined in the historical annals of the last third of the 20th Century.

In your sustained role of leadership in the struggle for human rights, in the patient and persistent effort to control weapons of mass destruction, in the manifold endeavors to defend Jewish dignity and to enhance the life-giving force of the Jewish State -- you have been unique: creative and innovative.

I am proud to be called your friend, not only because of your extraordinary, unparalleled service to all that is good and noble, but because of your own warmth and humanity.

Though I am returning home, I am not leaving America, and not departing from my friends here. America is, so to speak, in my bones: As you know, I have had three tours of duty here -- in the mid-60's in the struggle for Soviet Jewry; in the mid-80's as ambassador in Washington; and now these past five years with Israel Bonds. If there is anyone in the service of the State of Israel for whom the idea, and the actuality, of America is dear, it is I.

And you who embody the best that is America, and the finest that is America Jewry, you are also, and will always remain, dear to me. So this is not farewell but au revoir.

Vera joins me in sending you and Maggie our warmest wishes.

Cordially,

Meir Rosenne



**FINAL**

**REMARKS**

**BY**

**MAX M. KAMPELMAN**

**WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS**

**FAREWELL TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING**

**AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE**

**Washington, D.C.**

**November 15, 1993**

**When I was invited to participate in this program paying tribute to my friend, Meir Rosenne, for his outstanding qualities as a person and as a leader, it was suggested to me that I turn the event into a "roast," a form of humor designed to flatter and embarrass the honoree. I rejected that suggestion immediately. After all, Ambassador Rosenne is a serious man and deserves serious attention by those of us who honor him. Furthermore, his decision to return to Israel rather than continue to live with us here is a serious loss to those of us who have come to love and admire him and his wife.**

**I must confess, however, that when I received the formal invitation to this event, I noted with some amusement and more regret that this Israel Bonds function was to be a black tie event, and Meir was going to wear a tuxedo. I recalled a time when Ben-Gurion was the Prime Minister of Israel. He was leaving his office in Jerusalem to attend a very fancy Hadassah dinner**

at the King David Hotel. He was wearing a sweater and a shirt without a tie. His secretary chastised him for his manner of dress, whereupon he defended himself by saying that Churchill had told him his kind of dress was appropriate. He explained: "Look, when I was in London last year Churchill and I were going to an even fancier dinner at Claridges. I was dressed just like this. And Churchill said to me: "David, this kind of dress is perfectly appropriate in Israel, but not appropriate in London!"

I hasten to assure Meir's Israeli friends that even though he is wearing a tuxedo, none of the many accolades that he has received in our country have gone to his head. Let me tell you that I have observed how easy it is for success to go to someone's head. As an illustration, take the experience of Abe, who was walking on 39th Street in New York near Seventh Avenue. Suddenly, out of nowhere he saw his old friend and partner across the street. He shouted "Moishe" and hurried to greet his friend whom he had not seen for many years. They greeted each other, but Moishe was visibly embarrassed, finally saying: "Abe, God has been good to me since we last met and I now own a factory , made some money and I'm doing well. In my business, my name is no longer Moishe. It is Maurice." Abe was appropriately impressed and eager to learn about his friend's life style. Maurice explained: "I don't get up earlier than 9 o'clock; I read the paper; have a leisurely breakfast; get to the office by 11 or 11:30; go to lunch at 12; after lunch, I go home, I lay on my veranda; take a nap, have a drink; we go out to dinner; take in a show or concert. It's a good life."

When Abe got home that night, he quickly told his wife that he saw their old friend, Moishe, who was now a great success. "And, Beckie, his

**name is no longer "Moishe," it is now "Maurice." And, his wife? Her name is long "Vera, it's Veranda."**

**We all know that in the face of his many successes, Meir Rosenne is still Meir; and his wife is still Vera Rosenne.**

**Actually, those of us who know him know that Meir enjoys a good joke. He enjoys stealing them as well as telling them. I know nobody who has a greater number of them stored in that magnificent brain of his and nobody who delivers them better. Humor, we know, is an affirmation of our dignity as human beings, a declaration of our superiority over whatever troubles or tragedies may befall us.**

**Jews have traditionally understood the importance of humor, its irony and its utility for survival. Look at Shalom Aleichem's quote : "God chooses us . . . Does He have to choose us so often?" It was Sam Levinson who said : "We should laugh at our troubles because we will never run out of things to laugh at." We also see it in the prominence of Jews in American comedy -- names like Rabbi Jacob Mazur (Jackie Mason), Benjamin Kubelsky (Jack Benny), Milton Berlinger (Milton Berle), Melvin Kaminsky (Mel Books), Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns), Jerry Levitch (Jerry Lewis), Irving Kniberg (Alan King), Alan Konigsberg (Woody Allen).**

**My guess is that all of these comedians are wealthier than Meir Rosenne, who is as good as any of them, but I know that none of them has raised as much money for Israel and for the Jewish people and has worked as hard or contributed as much to the preservation of human values than**

**Ambassador Rosenne, who, as President of Israel Bonds, has raised more funds for Israel than any other person in the world. That has immeasurably enriched him and us.**

**Soon, Meir and Vera will get on an El Al flight and return home. Incidentally, for those of you who don't know, Israel's airline is a major one, on a par with any airline in the world. Indeed, it is said that the only difference between El Al and Air France, for example, is that on Air France when the flight attendant asks "red or white" she means wine, On El Al, when you are asked red or white, you soon learn they mean horseradish.**

**There was a couple from Santa Fe, New Mexico, making their first visit to Israel on an El Al flight. On their first night, they decided to go to a night club. The feature attraction was a stand-up comedian who created laughter in the audience with his first sentence. People were roaring with laughter and rolling in the aisles -- including Joe. Finally, his wife said: "Joe, you don't understand Hebrew or a word he is speaking. What are you doing laughing at what you don't understand? It's crazy!" Joe replied: "Yes, but I tell you -- I trust these people!"**

**My friends, ladies and gentlemen, these people are our people. We are they; they are us. My parents and Meir Rosenne's parents were born in Romania. Through good fortune or accident, my mother was sent to the United States by her father to join relatives she had never known. My father and his family came to this country when he was a child. They met at a meeting of the Independent Bukovina Young Mens' and Young Ladies'**

**Benevolent Society. They married, I was born. Meir's parents remained in Romania where they met, married, and where Meir was born.**

**During the Hitler and Stalin days, my parents and I lived in relative security, even somewhat unaware of the awful tragedies across the ocean. Meir's parents and he were forced to wear the yellow Star of David under Nazi occupation. They wore it with pain, but also with great pride. Meir and his family went to Palestine. My family lived in the United States. Meir and I are both lawyers, we both have doctorate degrees. I say without hesitation that none of us in this audience should forget: "There, but for the grace of God, go I."**

**Meir Rosenne's accomplishments are legion. Through his father's perseverance and courage, they lived through the dark Nazi nightmare until 1944 when they managed to secure passage for the family on a ship bound for Turkey. They left all their possessions behind and finally reached Palestine traveling on a train through Syria and Lebanon. At age 17 he took up arms to flight for the establishment of Israel as a home for the Jewish people. He entered the foreign service; he studied at the Sorbonne in Paris; he worked in the visa section of Israel's Paris embassy. he became Israel's Consul in New York.**

**Meir Rosenne was one of the first and most energetic of Israel's leaders to fight for freedom for Soviet Jews. He as much as any other human being helped persuade the United States to concern itself with this problem and lift it to a prominent position on the agenda of American**



foreign policy. Meir, too, would think: "There but for the grace of God go I."

Meir's government service career included a period as General Counsel of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission; Legal Advisor to the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador to France and to the United States. He played a vital, difficult role in the negotiations at Camp David, which led to the historic agreement between Israel and Egypt, as a result of which no soldier on either side has been killed by the other since the signing of the treaty.

My friends, you and I are frequently asked to invest or contribute to Israel. That is our privilege. Meir Rosenne has done more than invest. He and his family have committed themselves to the creation, establishment and strengthening of a Jewish national homeland, so that all of us may gain strength and security from its presence. Israel must always be available as a home which will receive any and all Jews who desire to live there, wherever they come from.

Meir, we give you and Vera our warmest best wishes as you return home. We know that you leave at the end of the year with mixed emotions. As I try to imagine your own thoughts, I remember the Adlai Stevenson story of a drunk who called the hotel switchboard at 6 a.m. to ask when the bar would open. "9 a.m." the operator replied. A half-hour later, the drunk called again and repeated the question in thicker tones. He received the same answer. When, unmistakably drunk, he called again at 7 a.m., the operator said in exasperation: "For the third time, you can get in the bar at 9 a.m." "Get in," replied the drunk, "I want to get out!"



**Meir, we understand your feelings. As you and Vera leave, our love goes with you.**

**FINAL**

**REMARKS**

**BY**

**MAX M. KAMPELMAN**

**WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS**

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WASHINGTON COMMITTEE  
STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS  
FAREWELL TRIBUTE DINNER  
HONORING AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1993

# PROGRAM

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WELCOMING REMARKS ..... Barbara Topol

ANTHEMS ..... Cantor Rochelle Helzner  
Congregation Beth Tikva

INVOCATION ..... Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg  
Adas Israel Congregation

PRESENTATION TO  
ZIVAN COHEN ..... Ambassador Meir Rosenne

REMARKS ..... Zivan Cohen

HAMOTZI

DINNER

INTRODUCTION OF AMBASSADOR  
MAX KAMPELMAN ..... Robert Keats

TRIBUTE ..... Ambassador Max Kampelman

RESPONSE ..... Ambassador Meir Rosenne

PRESENTATION TO  
AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE ..... Robert Keats

COFFEE AND DESSERT



Development Corporation For Israel

**ISRAEL BONDS**

## *Dinner Tribute Committee*

Barbara Topol  
*Dinner Co-Chairman*

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Abramson  
Dr. & Mrs. Marshall Ackerman  
Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Alpert  
Ms. Karen Baumel  
Mrs. Sondra Bender  
Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Berliner  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Bobb  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Brown  
Mrs. Rosalie Cohen  
Mrs. Phyllis Dreyfuss  
Mrs. Sylvia Ely-Jacobs  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael David Epstein  
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Falik  
Mr. Isaac Fleischmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Moses Freedman  
Mr. Hyman Garfinkel  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Gelfand  
Mrs. Estelle Gelman  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Goldstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Grossberg  
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Handelsman  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Heideman  
Dr. & Mrs. Perry Hookman  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Horowitz  
Dr. & Mrs. Abraham Ingber  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Jonas

Robert Keats  
*Dinner Co-Chairman*

Amb. & Mrs. Max Kampelman  
Dr. Leonard Kapiloff  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kaplan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Kaplan  
Mr. & Mrs. William Kaplan  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kay  
Mrs. Karen Keats  
Mr. & Mrs. John Kossow  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kraft  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kress  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lerner  
Mr. & Mrs. Merrick Marshall  
Mrs. Anne Reich  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Rosenkranz  
Mrs. Martha Sagon  
Dr. & Mrs. Jerome Sandler  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Sher  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Segerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Serber  
Mrs. Ellen Sigal  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Smilow  
Mr. Allan Topol  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Trachtenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Westreich  
Rabbi & Mrs. Jeffrey Wohlberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Zuckerman

Charles E. Smith  
*Honorary Chairman*

Howard Bender  
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Gerald R. Sigal  
*Campaign Chairman*

Robert G. Fishman, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

Zivan Cohen  
*Campaign Chairman-Elect*

# STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL

11/17 (F)



Robert G. Fishman, Ph.D  
*Executive Director*

September 21, 1993

Ambassador Max M. Kampelman  
3154 Highland Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kampelman:

Thanks for agreeing to pay tribute to Meir Rosenne at our year end dinner on November 17. With your participation, I know the dinner will be a huge success. I will provide you with details closer to the evening.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Fishman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

RGF/em





**Ambassador Meir Rosenne** has been a special friend to the Washington Jewish community since he and Vera arrived in 1983 to assume the post of Israel's ambassador to the United States. For the last five years, Ambassador Rosenne has been president and CEO of the worldwide Israel Bonds Organization, which he led to new levels of achievement, including the first-ever billion dollar campaign.

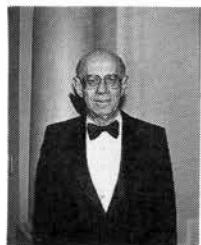
He was born in Iasi, Romania on February 19, 1931 and escaped with his family from Nazi-occupied Romania to Israel. He studied at the Sorbonne where he received his M.A. in political science and his Ph.D., with honors, in international law. He is a graduate of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Paris.

Ambassador Rosenne began his career in government service in 1953. He was consul of Israel in New York from 1961-67, and coordinator of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission from 1969-71. Between 1971 and 1979, he was legal advisor to Israel's Foreign Ministry, where he served as the legal advisor to the Israel delegation to the negotiations at Kilometer 101, the Geneva Peace Talks (1973) and the related negotiations with the Egyptian and Syrian delegations following the Yom Kippur War. He participated in all deliberations leading to the Israel-Egypt peace treaty in 1979, when he negotiated the legal protocols for the Camp David Accords.

For his prominent role in bringing about peace between Israel and Egypt, he earned the gratitude of his nation. He served his country as ambassador to France from 1979 until May 1983, and ambassador to the United States from 1983 until June 1987.

In 1989, he became president and CEO of Israel Bonds. With Bonds proceeds being utilized for immigrant absorption it is worth noting that Ambassador Rosenne was among the first to champion the cause of Soviet Jewry more than thirty years ago.

Ambassador Rosenne's efforts on behalf of Israel Bonds represent the continuation of a long and distinguished record of service to his country. It is therefore our privilege to pay tribute to him in recognition of a lifetime of achievement.



**Zivan Cohen** was born in Afula, Israel on May 17, 1931. He grew up in Ramat-Gan and served in the Army during the War of Independence in 1948.

Professionally, Mr. Cohen is a structural engineer who received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Israel's famed Technion and his M.S. in civil engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959. Since opening his own offices in 1962, he has been involved in myriad projects throughout the area, including many residential, educational, commercial and industrial buildings.

Mr. Cohen, who taught a senior engineering course at Catholic University's Department of Civil Engineering, has published numerous professional papers, and was the recipient of a national award for structural design.

Mr. Cohen is a longtime member of the Prime Minister's Club, one of Israel Bonds' most prestigious honor societies. He also participates in a number of secular and non-secular organizations in an effort to improve the quality of Jewish life in the Greater Washington community and Israel.

Zivan Cohen is married to Rosalie and they have 5 children.

*The Washington Committee, State of Israel Bonds  
requests the pleasure of your company at a  
Farewell Tribute Dinner Honoring  
Washington's Special Friend*

**Ambassador Meir Rosenne**  
*outgoing President and CEO of Israel Bonds*

*Tribute Speaker*

**Ambassador Max Kampelman**

*and the installation of*

**Zivan Cohen**

*1994 General Campaign Chairman*

*Wednesday, November seventeenth  
at the Park Hyatt Hotel  
24th and M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.*

**Barbara Topol and Robert M. Keats**  
*Dinner Co-Chairmen*

*Black Tie  
RSVP Enclosed  
Please respond by November 12th*

*Cocktails 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner 7:00 p.m.  
Dietary Laws Observed*

## *Dinner Tribute Committee*

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*Dinner Co-Chairman*

Robert Keats  
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Zivan Cohen  
*Campaign Chairman-Elect*

*Committee in formation*



WASHINGTON COMMITTEE  
STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS  
FAREWELL TRIBUTE DINNER  
HONORING  
AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS  
WEDNESDAY EVENING  
NOVEMBER 17  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



# STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

## Development Corporation For Israel

4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 800, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Phone: (301) 654-6575 or (800) 795-6575

Fax (301) 951-0036

### FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: 11-10

To:

Name: Ambassador Kempelma

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Pages 6

Including Cover Page

Message:

Rob Fishman 301-654-6575  
Note: Black Tie

Sent By: RF Fishman

Tentative Agenda  
Year-End Dinner  
November 17, 1993  
Park Hyatt Hotel

6:30-7:30.....Cocktails

7:30.....Welcome.....Barbara Topol

7:35.....Anthems.....Cantor Manevich

7:40.....Invocation.....Rabbi Wohlberg

7:43.....Call on Rosenne.....Barbara Topol

7:45.....Presentation to Cohen...Rosenne

7:50.....Comments.....Zivan Cohen

7:55.....Dinner.....

8:40.....Introduction of Kampelman.....Bob Keats

8:42.....<sup>(10-12 minutes)</sup> Tribute.....Ambassador Kampelman

8:55.....Response.....Ambassador Rosenne

9:10.....Award Presentation/Sales ...Bob Keats

9:15.....Coffee and Dessert.....

# BRINGING THEM HOME

## AMBASSADOR MEIR ROSENNE

The consummate diplomat and peace negotiator focuses on the absorption of Israel's immigrants

By James S. Galfund

*"Where were you when your people were downgraded, vilified and discriminated against—and what did you do to overcome the evil?"*

Ambassador Meir Rosenne

For Meir Rosenne, the journey from his native Romanian town of Yassi to the office he currently occupies as president and chief executive officer of the worldwide Israel Bonds organization has been a remarkable saga. It has been replete with so many dramatic and momentous events that, were it a book, it would read like an astonishing chronicle of late twentieth century Jewish history.

And, like so much of that history, Rosenne's life has exemplified triumph over adversity. Forced to wear the yellow Star of David under Nazi occupation, he and his family eluded death by escaping to Palestine. He fought against enemies bent on Israel's destruction during the War of Independence, and then, three decades later, helped forge peace between Israel and Egypt. He crusaded for the right of emigration for Soviet Jewry since the early sixties, and now, with the gates of freedom open, he is helping to provide the means for immigrants to lead meaningful and productive lives in Israel.

Rosenne has pursued his decades-long agenda on behalf of his people not only from Israel, but also from Paris and Washington. As Israel's ambassador to those two world capitals, Rosenne transcended periods of tension, skillfully creat-

ing new diplomatic climates highlighted by warmer ties and a spirit of closer cooperation.

Today, Meir Rosenne—accomplished diplomat, architect of peace, proud Jew and a fiercely patriotic Israeli—sits in his office at Israel Bonds world headquarters in New York, planning, developing and implementing the means to achieve yet another ambitious goal for his country—the attainment of \$1.5 billion in Israel bond funds in 1992.

For those who recall that it took 16 years for the Israel Bonds organization to reach its first billion in sales, Rosenne's goal might raise a few eyebrows. But then again, Meir Rosenne is the man who led Israel Bonds to its most successful year ever, securing \$990 million in 1991 alone.

In fact, during his first three years as president and CEO of Israel Bonds, he secured an astonishing \$2.5 billion in bond capital for Israel. This amazing accomplishment can perhaps best be appreciated when one realizes that it represents more than 20 per cent of all bonds sold in the four-decade history of Israel Bonds.

And, with all Bonds proceeds being devoted exclusively to the absorption of new immigrants in Israel, Meir Rosenne is, most certainly, the right man in the right place at the right time. For Rosenne, the ongoing arrival of hundreds of thousands of former Soviet Jews in Israel is the fulfillment of a personal quest that has obsessed him for more than 30 years.

"Fifty years ago," he observes, "the Jews had no place to

go, and, even if they could emigrate, no one would accept them. Today, Israel is waiting to accept all Jews who wish to live there with warmth, enthusiasm and the promise of a meaningful future. Despite hardship and conflict, Israel will continue to keep its gates open for any Jew seeking refuge or desiring a full, free and proud Jewish life."

Rosenne fervently believes that "Israel is the living realization of the dream of the Jewish people."

And, he stresses, "if Jews are free today to come to Israel, it is because for years we have carried high the appeal, 'Let my people go.'"

For Rosenne, the arrival of what may be as many as one million former Soviet Jews in Israel—together with several thousand from Ethiopia

and other countries—does not represent the culmination of his efforts. Rather, it means the start of an intensive new phase, one in which he feels that "it is our obligation to ensure that no Jew, wherever he might be, will ever be prevented from going to Israel because of a lack of funds for housing and jobs.

"Their fate is in our hands," Rosenne emphasizes. "We



Ambassador Meir Rosenne, the president and CEO of Israel Bonds.



can do it. We will do it."

These words are spoken forcefully by a man who, having endured the horrors of life under Nazi occupation, knows what it is like to face oppression, despair and the daily possibility of death. Meir Rosenne, better than most individuals, understands what the promise of a safe haven means to Jews living a daily existence of persecution and desperation.

**O**n June 29, 1941, a pogrom in Yassi took the lives of more than 12,000 Jews. That searing event was one of the pivotal moments in Rosenne's life: "Since that day, I consider the rest of my life a bonus, because, by sheer luck, I remained alive."

Even today, Rosenne recalls the event vividly. "Germany had just invaded the Soviet Union, and Soviet planes were bombing Romania. We had taken refuge, together with 30 other families, in the basement of a store.

"We hid there for a week. Then, a man came and told us that all Jews must go to the police station to get the word *liber* (free) stamped on their papers. My father, who was the community leader, said no. Only one family went, and they never returned. The next day, we paid two soldiers to keep people out of the shelter. We later heard that 2,000 Jews were executed by the Romanian police, and 10,000 more were put on sealed trains and sent to their deaths."

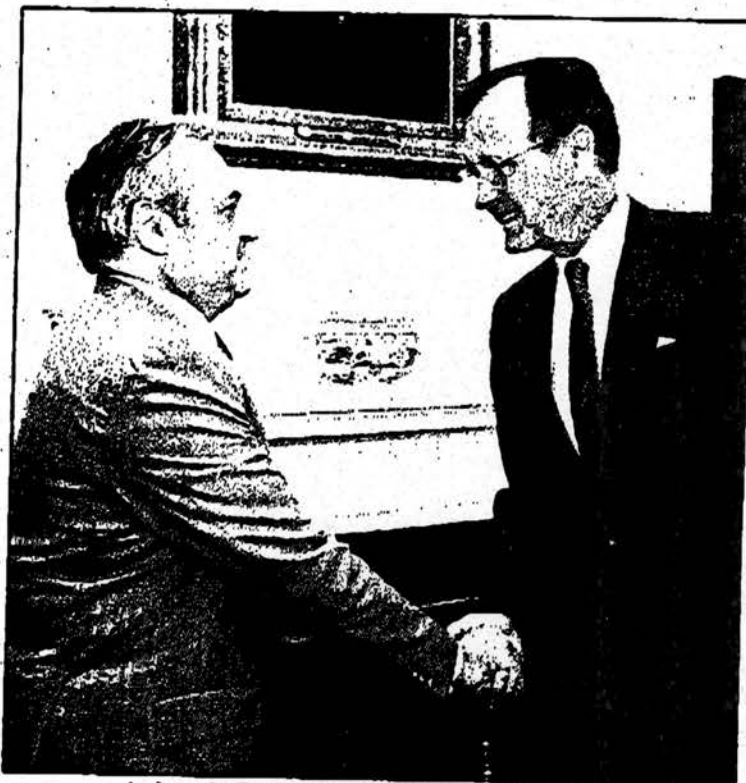
Rosenne and his family persevered through the dark Nazi nightmare for another three years. Then, in 1944, his father managed to secure passage for the family on a ship bound for Turkey. Leaving all their possessions behind, the Rosennes, together with 700 other refugees, crammed aboard a vessel built to accommodate 200 passengers. From Turkey, the family made its way to Palestine, traveling via train through Syria and Lebanon.

Then, at age 17, he took up arms to fight for the establishment of a free and independent state of Israel.

During one battle, a friend fighting two feet away from Rosenne was shot and killed. "From that moment on, I have always remembered, and will never forget, that I owe my life, my existence, to the Jewish boys who died so that Israel might live."

The passage of time has not yet dimmed the wonder of Israel's reemergence as a sovereign Jewish nation, an event that remains extraordinary for Rosenne. He firmly believes that "the modern-day rebirth of the ancient Jewish commonwealth, after two millennia of Jewish exile, wandering and harrowing persecution, is both a miracle and an act of historic justice."

Following the cessation of hostilities between Israel and the Arabs, Rosenne decided to enter the foreign service. To achieve that goal he studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, earning



Ambassador Rosenne greets U.S. President George Bush.

a Ph.D. in international law. Rosenne's entrée into the world of diplomacy began rather inauspiciously, with a job in the visa section of Israel's Paris embassy.

As fate would have it, the man who would forge the legal protocols that brought peace between Israel and Egypt worked at the embassy with Eli Ben-Elissar, who was destined to become Israel's first ambassador to Cairo.

Upon returning to Israel, Rosenne, along with four other people, "started the struggle for Russian Jewry, to make the world aware of the magnitude of the problem."

His awareness campaign received a major boost when, during his service as Israel's consul in New York, Rosenne was able to secure a meeting with U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

Rosenne remembers Kennedy with warmth and gratitude, recalling how the late president was "deeply moved by the issue of Soviet Jewry. Kennedy was the first head of state to officially raise the matter with the Soviet Union."

Thus, Rosenne's perseverance resulted in a major breakthrough—the first serious interest expressed by the United States concerning the rights of Soviet Jews. He considers the elevation of Soviet Jewry to a prominent position on America's foreign policy agenda as "the number one achievement" of his diplomatic career.

Once the U.S. government threw its weight behind the struggle, the American Jewish community also began to take up the cause.

Rosenne returned to Israel in 1967, and was appointed



Ambassador Meir Rosenne, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and U.S. President Jimmy Carter discuss peace at Camp David.



Seated left to right: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin sign the historic Camp David Accords. Ambassador Rosenne (far right) was intimately involved with every phase of the negotiations.

coordinator and later, general counsel, of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission. In 1971, Abba Eban named him legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, a key phase in his diplomatic career that culminated in "one of the greatest moments of my life"—the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

As an expert on international law, Rosenne was intimately involved with every phase of the complex and difficult negotiations that led to the signing of the Camp David Accords, beginning with the disengagement agreements hammered out in the Sinai in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War.

After months of arduous negotiations, Rosenne handed the completed peace treaty to Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the 1979 signing ceremony on the White House lawn. Today, he remembers the event as "a historic moment that I shall never forget."

He calls the peace treaty "the most important event in the

history of Israel," and points to the accords as "irrefutable proof of Israel's willingness to make concessions. We gave up territory four times the size of Israel, together with oil wells, military bases, naval bases and the Straits of Tiran. For the people of Israel, the life of one human being is more important than oil.

"Israel," he declares emphatically, "in the face of the silence, indifference, hostility and hypocrisy of other nations, continues, as always, to stand ready to make peace with anyone who is ready to make peace with her."

Despite the fact that peace with Egypt has yet to blossom into warm, cordial relations, Rosenne points out that "in spite of all the odds, and contrary to all the predictions of the so-called experts, there is peace today between Israel and the most important Arab state. No soldiers have been killed since the signing of the treaty, and the flag of Israel still flies in Cairo. The peace continues, and for Israel, this reality is of the utmost importance."

Rosenne's extensive involvement with the Camp David Accords delayed his return to Paris, where he was due to begin his next major diplomatic assignment as Israel's ambassador to the French capital. He served as Israel's emissary to Paris from 1979 to 1983, after which he was posted to

Washington, D.C. to succeed Moshe Arens as Israel's ambassador to the United States.

During his assignments abroad, Rosenne was a sought-after guest lecturer at universities in Europe and the United States, speaking on international law at such prestigious institutions as the Sorbonne in Paris and American University in Washington, D.C.

In fact, Rosenne's successes in the world of foreign diplomacy have tended to overshadow the fact that he is also a renowned scholar who has served as senior lecturer at the University of Tel Aviv, the University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This oversight was corrected by Yeshiva University in New York, which conferred upon Rosenne an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. In making the presentation, university president



Dr. Norman Lamm said, "You have established an enviable reputation as a courageous government official . . . but those of us in the field of education know you also for your fine mind as a noted member of the academic community."

In 1987, following his service as Israel's ambassador to Washington, Rosenne took a leave of absence from the Foreign Ministry to accept a position with Shaare Zedek Hospital as chairman of its international board of governors. Then, in 1989, he was named president and chief executive officer of the worldwide Israel Bonds organization, an opportunity which has allowed him to continue his 30-year effort on behalf of Soviet Jewry on an unprecedented scale.

He strongly believes that "the fate of the State of Israel will be decided by the number of Jews going to live there. Everything should be done, in every possible and impossible way, to make sure that the Jews from Russia come to Israel. But that's only the beginning. Once they are in Israel, we must ensure that they have the means to make a positive contribution to the nation and its future. History," he warns, "will never forgive us if we fail in this endeavor."

In 1990, Rosenne took his message straight to the source, when, shortly after free emigration rights were granted, he led an Israel Bonds delegation to the Soviet Union to meet with the Jewish communities of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

For Rosenne, the highlight of his trip was an address he made during Shabbat services in Moscow's main synagogue. He told the worshippers that their exodus was "the third great miracle of our time, after the survival of the Jewish people despite attempts to destroy them in the Holocaust, and the rebirth of a free and independent Israel."

Rosenne is unshakable in his conviction that Israel's absorption of Jews from the former Soviet Union is "a worldwide Jewish endeavor. All Jews are shareholders in this enterprise called Israel. I think even the assimilated Jew, when reading a newspaper, looks first to see if there is anything about Israel. This will continue forever. There is no doubt in my mind.

"In that regard," he continues, "the Israel Bonds organization offers a unique opportunity to share in the building and development of Israel. Israel Bonds is the only organization that mobilizes funds to be invested in the economy of Israel to ensure the enhancement of the Jewish state. From that standpoint, when we speak of dividends, we don't only mean the interest the bond pays. The real dividend is the restoration of human dignity for the Jewish people."

During those brief moments when he is not vigorously pursuing that goal of Jewish dignity, Rosenne derives pleasure from swimming and photography. He and his wife Vera, who is actively involved with the Israel Bonds Women's Division, as well as the Women's International Zionist Organization, reside on Manhattan's Upper East Side, although their home in Jerusalem is never far from their thoughts.

Nor are their daughters: 32-year-old Mihal, a social worker involved with juvenile delinquents and their families in Israel, and Dafna, 23, who followed in her father's footsteps and became a lawyer.

Although he is not a politician, Rosenne is a man of strong personal convictions, which he is not hesitant to express. The subject of the acrimonious negotiations over U.S.-backed loan guarantees brings out the fiery side of Rosenne's personality: "In spite of promises made by the Americans, linkage

between the loan guarantees and political conditions was established. Israel was expected, before any negotiations began, to give up its inherent right to settle Jews anywhere it wants. The shock of seeing the loan guarantees linked to the internal policies of Israel was just incredible."

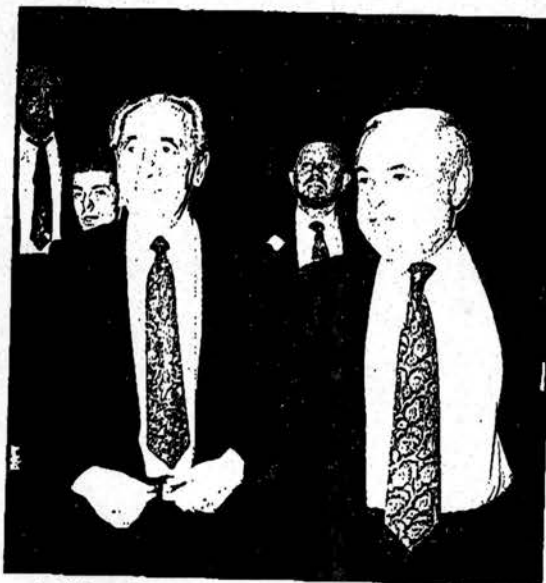
Which brings him back to Israel Bonds: "The net result of all this is that Jews in the Diaspora have to make a special effort to help the State of Israel—and that is why Israel Bonds is here."

And that is why Meir Rosenne is presiding over the organization's worldwide efforts to ensure the success of what will undoubtedly be the last

great exodus of the Jewish people. The man who was told by his father to wear the Nazi's yellow star not as a badge of shame, but a badge of pride, has carried that lesson with him his entire life.

It is a lesson he is eager to impart to others, saying that he urges his fellow Jews "to renew our pledge to past and future generations so that no matter what, we will never let down our brethren, no matter where they are. Our joint support for Israel and the Jewish people," he emphasizes sternly, "is not negotiable. All those who give us advice, those who are always ready to express condolences when Jews are killed, should know that we do not want any more monuments to the dead. We have only one monument, which is a very living monument.

"And that," says Meir Rosenne, "is the State of Israel."



Shimon Peres, Israel's new foreign minister, with Ambassador Meir Rosenne.



Development Corporation For Israel

# ISRAEL BONDS

Robert G. Fishman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

November 18, 1993

Ambassador Max M. Kampelman  
3154 Highland Place, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kampelman:

You were superb! Your comments and warmth made last night very special for everyone who was there. I know how moved Meir was listening to you, and you are a great joke teller. Meir requested a copy of your remarks, if possible.

Thank you for being such a good friend of Israel Bonds and for participating in last night's Tribute Dinner.

Best wishes,

Robert G. Fishman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

RGF/em

