

Jewish Federation Hosts Powerhouse Delegation from Jewish Think Tank in Jerusalem

Representatives from the Jerusalem-based Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPI) brief St. Louis on trends affecting Jewish people - and geopolitical challenges for Israel and the Middle East

Jewish Federation of St. Louis hosted a delegation of three dignitaries from the Jerusalem-based Jewish People Policy Planning Institute (JPPI), Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, chair; Avinoam Bar Yosef, director general, and Brig. General (reserve) Michael Herzog, a senior Fellow. The dignitaries were in St. Louis less than 24 hours (April 6-7) for a jam-packed itinerary that included meetings, events and media interviews. With recent developments in the Middle East and rising threats to Israel, this was a good opportunity for detailed briefings on mega trends affecting the Jewish people and Israel's geopolitical challenges.

Eizenstat, Herzog and Bar Yosef attended a private Wednesday night reception hosted by Dale and Barry Sharon – at which more than 50 invited guests were briefed on issues facing the Jewish people.



On Thursday, the trio met with a prestigious group of state and local civic and religious leaders at a special breakfast. Attendees included Missouri Attorney General **Chris Koster**, Missouri State Treasurer **Clint Zweifel**; **Vince Schoemehl**, Grand Center President and former St. Louis mayor; **Christine Chadwick**, Executive Director, Focus St. Louis, **Tom Irwin**, Executive Director, Civic Progress and Reverend **Michael Kinnamon**, General Secretary, National Council of Churches.

The JPPI dignitaries then travelled downtown to field questions live at KMOX radio on the Charlie Brennan show. (See below to hear show in its entirety).

Over lunch, Ambassador Eizenstat joined Washington University students for a public presentation on the Middle East – and Holocaust Restitution.

Gen. Herzog and Avinoam Bar Yosef fielded questions from a reporter for the **St. Louis Beacon**, a local online publication. When asked



about the Arab uprisings in the Middle East, Herzog said "We in Israel are following what's happening around us with a mix of hope and concerns." Read the article in its entirety: **'Arab spring' uprisings inspire mixed feelings in Israel** on www.StLBeacon.org

In the afternoon, the trio also met with Jewish Community Relations Council leaders - and then conducted a video roundtable discussion and interview with The Jewish Light's Larry Levin. The visit ended with a comprehensive presentation to the Jewish Federation Board of Trustees.

JPPI (www.jpji.org) is the only Jewish think tank assessing the condition of the Jewish people worldwide and formulating policy recommendations for the Israeli government and global Jewish community leadership. The JPPI is a beneficiary agency of Jewish Federation of St. Louis.



Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat has served three U. S. administrations, with numerous other roles as chief White House domestic policy advisor to President Jimmy Carter, U. S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of State for International Trade and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Currently he heads the international law practice of the Washington DC law firm of Covington & Burling LLP. He has played numerous Jewish leadership roles including Chair of the Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science and President of the JCC of Greater Washington, DC.

Prior to JPPI, **Avinoam Bar Yosef** was chief diplomatic correspondent and commentator, and later US bureau chief for Israel's Ma'ariv newspaper – one of Israel's major dailies.

Brig. General (Reserve) Michael Herzog was head of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) strategic planning division. He has served in professional roles in numerous Israeli-Arab peace negotiations. He was also Chief of Staff to Defense Minister Ehud Barak and has held numerous posts in the Defense Ministry. He is the son of the late Israeli President Chaim Herzog and brother of Knesset Member Yitzhack Herzog. Herzog heads the institute's team addressing the delegitimization of Israel.

**See photos:
Jewish Federation Reception**

Listen to the show from KMOX

Charlie talks with Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat with the Jewish People's Policy Planning Institute, Avinoam Bar Yosef, former U.S. Bureau Chief for one of Israel's major dailies, and Brigadier General Michael Herzog, about the settlements, the new government in Egypt and how the turmoil in Libya might affect Israel.

