



David B Dewitt
<ddewitt@yorku.ca>
04/28/2009 08:54 AM

To "lawdean" <lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

At a meeting off campus. Should be in the office about 11:00.

From: lawdean
Sent: 04/28/2009 08:30 AM AST
To: David Dewitt
Subject: Re: Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

Yes I'd like to chat with you about some further thoughts. Are you around this morning?

From: David B Dewitt [ddewitt@yorku.ca]
Sent: 04/28/2009 08:19 AM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: Re: Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

Patrick, happy to help when/if I can. Do you want to talk/meet? David

From: lawdean
Sent: 04/27/2009 10:08 PM AST
To: David Dewitt
Subject: Re: Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

5.21(1) I spoke to [] this evening and, quite frankly, it is very discouraging to discuss this with him. He is not impressed with Bell, saying he is not seen as a defender of Israel; he also says (in response to my request to identify 10-12 speakers who should be featured in the plenary sessions) that there aren't really any speakers in the list at all. When I pressed him he did mention Lustick and Benvenisti, but grudgingly.

5.21(1) In any event this is not my area and I need some guidance as to whom we should be seeking to include in (and, conversely, to exclude from) the plenaries. I'm hoping that you can help me with that. [] just isn't helpful at all, quite frankly, and I find it (more than) a bit frustrating.

Patrick

From: David B Dewitt [ddewitt@yorku.ca]
Sent: 04/27/2009 09:28 PM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: Re: Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

Patrick

Thanks for copying me on the letter to Michael.

I do think it would be important for you to follow this with a call to him. He needs to know the context. He is not unaware of the various positions that are held both within the Canadian Jewish community and within the various Canadian Arab and Muslim communities, though depending on where he has been during the last few months, may well be unaware of the tensions around the June conference. I believe that he has credibility among many of the leaders in these sectors, but he needs to be able to determine whether his acceptance of the invitation would serve his overall interests. Given his important Jerusalem project and the weight his name carries among both Israelis and Palestinians inside and out of governments and academe, and international institutions (he represented the multilateral stakeholders in the UN aid and development efforts in Iraq), it will be important for him to be able to assess the terrain.

I very much like that the letter specifically encourages him to offer a "principled address of the two state solution" which, in one variant or another, is the status quo with adjustments made through negotiations. You may have been following some of the debates which have been occurring within Israel as well as between Israel and the US, among others, in addition to the more common positions expressed by others in the Middle East and the Muslim countries, about this. Most recently in today's Ha'aretz (the most "progressive" of the Israeli newspapers) there was an effort to lay out the profound constraints about moving forward on peace based even on a two-state solution, with the alternatives non-starters. The position of that author was that while ultimately it must end up being a two-state solution, at the moment the Palestinians simply are unable and their supporters unwilling to deliver on that, while Israelis under even a right wing government have moved in that direction, only to be rebuffed or worse. For that author, an end-state that is not a two-state is simply not possible if Israel is to survive, and the intent to eradicate Israel is the strategy of both moderate and more extreme Arab leaders. Michael Bell is, in my view, very well placed to unpack such arguments, examine alternatives, and I would guess whether for principles or for pragmatic politics, argue why a two-state solution is the only possible path should peace and security be the shared goal.

All that said, Michael must be informed about the "third tier" participants/presenters, and appreciate that there may well be some attention given to this meeting and especially to those who are seen as polarizing forces, ideologues, fellow travellers, etc. I would include not just those who are seen to be one staters in favour of undermining/destroying Israel, Israel apartheid and "Zionism as Racism" types, but the other one-staters who see the necessity of "cleansing" Israel of all Arabs and perhaps even all non-Jews, Arab or other. He likely would have to deal with these sorts from the floor in any Q&A that follows his presentation, but that will not be new territory for him. Undoubtedly he will appreciate that the conference organizers cannot control what the media do with the event, nor what various communities decide to do. I expect that if he is there for only that one day, provides a strong and clear presentation, and is available for interviews by any media interested, he will be able to ensure that at least the first day and his words will ring as well reasoned and reasonable, and thus contribute to the overall perception of the conference.

If at some time you wish me to speak with him, I'd be happy to do so. David

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lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca

04/27/09 06:04 PM

To "David Dewitt" <ddewitt@yorku.ca>
cc
Subject Fw: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

David see below. I am thinking I will call Bell tomorrow to follow up but wanted your thoughts.

Patrick

From: MappingModels
Sent: 04/27/2009 06:00 PM EDT
To: mbell@uwindsor.ca
Cc: aiken@post.queensu.ca; Susan Drummond; Mazen Masri; Bruce Ryder; Law Dean
Subject: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address

Dear Professor Bell,

Please find attached an invitation to deliver a keynote address at the international conference on "Israel/Palestine: Mapping Models of Statehood and Paths to Peace", to be held at York University from June 22nd to 24th, 2009.

Yours very truly,
the Organizing Committee,

Sharryn Aiken

Susan Drummond

Mazen Masri

Bruce Ryder