

Appendix 6: email with Monahan's original response to complaints about the conference,
April 24, 2009



Law Dean/osgoode
04/11/2009 06:51 AM

To: S. 21(1)
cc: S. 21(1)
Shoukri
bcc:

Mamdouh

Subject: Re: Fw: Please take the time to read this message

S. 21(1) further to our exchange yesterday, in my view the email you received is a totally inaccurate and unfair characterization of this conference. It is not calling for anything, and certainly not the end of Israel as a Jewish state. It is, rather, a serious academic conference that will feature over 40 speakers from around the world, including many from Israeli universities. The purpose of the conference, as is explained on the conference website, is to explore whether there are new solutions that might be explored in the middle east in an attempt to find peaceful solutions to the conflict there. This will involve the exploration of controversial ideas, and I know that the conference has been controversial within some elements of the community here in Toronto. But a serious academic institution has to encourage free inquiry, as long as the debate is balanced and not skewed in one direction or the other. I believe that this conference will do that.

Here is a link to the conference website.

<http://www.yorku.ca/ipconf/>

I encourage you to look at the website and see for yourself the range of opinion that is going to be canvassed at the event.

The fact that it received a grant from an independent committee at the SSHRC is evidence of the scholarly character of the conference. That is why it is mentioned on the conference website. In fact the SSHRC committee, which is made up of scholars from other universities, gave the conference the highest possible ranking as a scholarly conference. I do not know why your correspondent would take that as something to criticize.

Thanks for forwarding this message and providing me with an opportunity to provide further background. Happy to speak to you or others about this if you think it worthwhile.

I am copying Mamdouh so that he is aware of the discussions that are taking place around this conference.

Regards,
Patrick

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S. 21(1)



S. 21(1)
04/10/2009 03:22 PM

To lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca
cc: S. 21(1)