

Appendix 2: email from David Dewitt regarding Howard Adelman's satisfaction with unchanged conference, June 8, 2009



David B Dewitt
<ddewitt@yorku.ca>
06/08/2009 05:38 PM

To "Stan Shapson" <sshapson@edu.yorku.ca>,
lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca
cc sshapson@bell.blackberry.net

bcc

Subject Fw: Community Action Alert on York University conference
questioning Israeli's right to exist

So this is at least one of the sources, not surprisingly; see below. Classic BB right-wing stuff playing to their constituency.

Last week I went over the conference website and abstracts carefully and concluded that the organizers have improved what was there. While I personally still have some reservations, had what it is now been presented six months ago and had they been a bit more careful in how they selected their speakers, I think much of the problems we've encountered either would not have happened or could have been managed. And I told them that last summer....

I was pleased to note that entirely separately, in speaking with Howard Adelman over the weekend, he had gone through a similar exercise and came to much the same conclusion: that what is now there is significantly better than before. Still problematic in some ways, but not to the extent previously and certainly within the bounds for what might now be a managed engagement of strongly differing ideas.

However, I doubt that we will find that those -- such as B'nai B'rith or JDL -- are likely to take a careful and fair look at the changes currently (or as of last week) evident in the revised materials. So we are stuck with damage control. It still is not in my mind a high level/quality conference even with some very good scholars present; too uneven and still with some rather dubious individuals. Hence, Gerald Steinberg will still write what he writes, as noted in my previous e-mail to you.

As an aside, I hope you had a chance to read Patrick Martin's long article in Saturday's G&M on the very topic of the conference. It was well done, and could have been a fine piece to frame the original conference call had it been available a year ago! Oh well.

d.

David B. Dewitt
Associate Vice-President Research
(Social Sciences & Humanities)
Professor of Political Science
Centre for International & Security Studies
York University, Toronto Canada M3J 1P3
E-mail: ddewitt@yorku.ca
AVP Research Tel: 416-736-5780 Fax: 416-650-8197
Website www.research.yorku.ca
YCIS Tel: 416-736-5156 Fax: 416-736-5752

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