

Appendix 38: "PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL" email from Dewitt to Monahan, May 11, 2009

From: David B Dewitt [ddewitt@yorku.ca]
Sent: 05/11/2009 12:39 PM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL Fw: oped draft on conference at York

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Patrick,

I've just received the attached. It is a draft of an op ed that S. Z. (1) a very well known senior Israeli academic who often writes in various Canadian and US newspapers, plans on submitting, probably to one of G&M, Star, Citizen, or Post. He has sent it to me out of "courtesy", I presume, indicating that under separate cover he also will be sending it to Jason Kenney and Irwin Cotler in the context of SSHRC funding issues.

I do not know when he intends to submit; probably fairly soon.

Patrick, I've also asked around about the UMass conference to which you alluded yesterday. I've not found anyone yet who knows of it nevermind being involved, and nothing seems to come up on the UMass website. It may well have happened but doesn't seem to be well known or to have led to a recognized publication, at least not yet.

I'm still waiting to hear from two more senior academics I've contacted regarding their assessment of the conference lineup, and in particular the dozen or so who might make up the so-called "plenary day". To date, the two have had mixed comments: one is fundamentally critical, and while recognizing that there are "a few" credible scholars, even they are well known -- including or especially the Israelis -- as being extreme critics, and among their colleagues often are seen this way as a means of reputation building and desiring notariety. The other colleague was somewhat more positive; about half of the plenary candidates he would join on the podium even though he likely would not agree with their views; a quarter he would not be seen with; and the remainder he doesn't really know either them or their work sufficiently well to comment one way or the other.

And so it goes....

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
YCISS Tel: 416-736-5156 Fax: 416-736-5752

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— Forwarded by David B Dewitt/fs/YorkU on 05/11/09 12:25 PM —