BIOTERRORISM New Threats: Perspectives from the US and Israel

OPENING REMARKS

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I accepted the leadership role in APF because I could use it as a vehicle to contribute to the health, happiness and well being of my fellow man in a way that I could never do in my lifelong career as a surgeon. I hoped that by improving the APF's programs in education of Israeli physicians-Jewish and Arab alike-we could bring better understanding and peace. I believed that our Medical Emergency Program would save the lives of civilians in the Holy Land in time of actual all out war. I was proud that we had d e veloped the program rapidly to stand ready to provide the Is rael Health Care Community the help it would need if the war escalated. I was fascinated to hear Eldad speak of the ancient history of bioterrorism and fearful at the hint that lethal bacterial for germ warfare may even be brewing in the West Bank. Other speakers presented the sobering facts of our own lack of preparedness and the menace of atomic waste and untreatable virus particles. Elie Wiesel confirmed my own beliefs that the fanatic elements of the Muslim world hate Americans as a nation and Jews worldwide. His heightened my fears and disappointment that escalation of war in the mid-East have fanned the deep seated anti-Semitism throughout Europe and the rest of the civilized world. As I listened to Elie Wiesel my own frustra-



tions and angers were only increased with his every word. The highlight of the program came when Wiesel gave his conclusions. As much as the terrorists murder, as sanguine and full of hate as they may be, the only choice we have is to continue to make it a better world. When I thought of what this great man has been through in his lifetime and can still preach love and reconciliation, I can only conclude that we must use our energies to keep trying to make it a better war. Wiesel summed up, as you will read, that we



have no choice. His profound thoughts allowed me to leave the meeting with renewed dedication to APF and its goals and objectives for the present and new programs in the future.

Over the next year, we will strengthen the APF board, set new goals for fund raising and continue to make our programs relevant to the needs of health care of Jews throughout the world. For that we need your support. We need to expand our membership numbers. We need young talented leadership drawn from the medical profession and the lay public. Developing future APF leaders is as important and donations. Let us show Elie Wiesel that the dream is alive and we can all work to make it a reality. I applaud Bruno Cohen and his Regimedia staff for a job well done and urge you to read the contents of this excellent meeting."

> I.Kelman Cohen, M.D. President of APF

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