Israelis & Germans

The Exhibition

German-Israeli Association (DIG)

October 16 to November 13, 2015

Berlin, German Bundestag, Paul-Löbe-Haus

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, September 14, 2015

**Bundestag President Lammert opens "Israelis & Germans: The Exhibition"**

**On October 15, 19.00, Bundestag President Norbert Lammert will open "Israelis & Germans: The Exhibition", organized by the German-Israeli Association (DIG), at the Paul-Löbe-Haus of the German Bundestag. Guests will include Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Germany, and the President of the German-Israeli Association, Reinhold Robbe. The event will also feature performances from the orchestra "Spring in the Negev – Friends in Music" Philharmonia of the Nations & the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, led by Justus Frantz, and clarinetist Giora Feidman.**

Germany and Israel established diplomatic relations 50 years ago. With the traveling exhibition "Israelis and Germans", the German-Israeli Association (DIG) honors the well-known and less well-known "bridge builders" who have forged and expanded civil ties between the countries over the past five decades.

The exhibition is contextualized by a timeline charting historical events from 1949 to 2015. Six exhibition modules cast light on the themes prologue, chasm, rapprochement, trailblazers, connections and tilt. These six sections portray the stories of around 160 politicians, cultural and media figures, athletes, scientists and entrepreneurs from Germany and Israel via texts, quotes, photos and correspondence.

At the start appear the journalists Erich Lüth and Rudolf Küstermeier, who initiated a peace initiative between Germany and Israel as early as August 1951. But the "Israelis & Germans" exhibition also documents the first official encounters between figures including Konrad Adenauer and David Ben-Gurion or Marlene Dietrich and Teddy Kollek. The exhibition charts the journeys of prominent representatives from both states such as Helmut Kohl, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, Berthold Beitz, Axel and Friede Springer or Stef Wertheimer.

**Prominent voices**

Quotes from contemporary observers such as Campino, Günther Jauch, Avi Primor, Angela Merkel, Joschka Fischer and Yoram Kaniuk deepen insights into the finely interwoven relationship. Representatives from different generations also discuss this relationship's connecting and divisive elements in twelve video interviews featuring Uri Avnery, Avital Ben-Chorin, Tally Gur, Gilad Hochman, Carsten Hueck, Christine Mähler, Doreen Mildner, Chaim Noll, Nava Semel, Joshua Sobol, Sara von Schwarze, Hans-Jochen Vogel and Dan Yoel. Historical and current photographic material helps visualize the stories and features the significant historical documentary photography of Magnum photographer Micha Bar-Am alongside images from photographers Michael Maor, Vardi Kahana, David Rubinger and Heike Steinweg. The exhibition includes previously unpublished material which will be displayed to the German public for the first time.

**Duration and opening times**

The German-Israeli Association’s exhibition can be visited in Paul-Löbe-Haus from October 16 to November 13, 2015. In line with conditions regulating entry to the German Bundestag, visitors can visit the exhibition subject to prior notice on Mondays from 9.00 to 15.00, Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9.00 to 16.00 and Fridays from 9.00 to 13.00. Interested parties should register for their visit by phone on +49 (0)30 22738883 or by email at info-ausstellungen-plh@bundestag.de. Entry to the exhibition is free of charge.

**Tour dates**

Following its stay in the Bundestag, the exhibition will go on tour until the end of 2016, being shown in Augsburg, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Erfurt, Hamburg, Kassel, Leer, Nürnberg, Passau and Würzburg. On October 29, 2015, the tour of the Hebrew language version of the exhibition will begin in Tel Aviv before moving on to Beer Sheva, Haifa and Jerusalem.

The exhibition has received significant funding from Germany's Federal Foreign Office. The Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband (German Savings Banks Association, DSGV) also supports the exhibition as its sponsor for the Berlin leg of the tour. Further exhibition locations will be supported by local branches of Sparkasse. Information about "Israelis & Germans: The Exhibition" can be found at the website [www.israelis-und-deutsche.de](http://www.israelis-und-deutsche.de/), whose content is being regularly expanded.

**Magazine accompanying the exhibition**

"Israelis & Germans: The Magazine" with prologues from German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Germany, and the President of the German-Israeli Association (DIG), Reinhold Robbe will be published on October 12. Further contributions were written by Fania Oz-Salzberger, Shai Hoffmann, Katharina Höftmann, Assaf Uni and Alexandra Nocke. The exhibition magazine is published by the German-Israeli Association, Dr Alexandra Nocke, curator of the exhibition, and project assistant Teresa Schäfer.

**About the German-Israeli Association**

Based in Berlin, the German-Israeli Association was founded in 1966, one year after diplomatic relations had been established. Today, the association unites 50 regional groups with about 5,000 members. It operates as a cross-party organization seeking to consolidate and further develop personal, cultural and economic connections between the people of Israel and Germany.

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