

Subject: This is the real Lieberman.

Dec. 31, 2010.

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

Larry Riteman [Letter Dec.31], makes an extraordinary statement defending the stand of Avigdor Lieberman, Israel's foreign minister. The statement quoted in your report is only one out of many that Lieberman has made confirming his racist ideas and proposing policies that contradict all elements of peace with the Palestinians. His stand is referred to and condemned by many Israeli and international Jewish authorities. His speech at the UN General Assembly on Sept. 28, displays his stand clearly. In that speech he spoke of transfer [expulsion] of the Arab citizens of Israel. In reference to this speech, the Haaretz [the distinguished Israeli daily] Editorial, on Oct. 1, was titled; "Fire Lieberman". The editorial stated: "Without getting into the thick of Lieberman's political doctrine, which relies almost completely on baseless "ethnocratic" ideas and aggressiveness toward other countries, the fact that a foreign minister makes statements to the UN General Assembly that are in complete opposition to the official stance of the government in which he serves, is a reason for his dismissal."

Referring to Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, whose rightward political leanings have driven much of the discourse in recent weeks, Minister of Knesset (MK) Shlomo Molla said she and others had come "to say, 'Stop Lieberman's fascism'" and stem the "flood of anti-democratic and anti-Israeli laws."

Another Haaretz editorial on Dec. 28, was titled: "Lieberman must go". The editorial stated: "Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman took advantage of his appearance Sunday at a Foreign Ministry conference of Israeli ambassadors for one of his periodic horror shows. Lieberman, as is his habit, lashed out at Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (whom he called a liar ), at the Palestinian Authority (which he called illegitimate ) and at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (whose assurances regarding a final peace agreement Lieberman described as unrealistic.)"

Stephen Lendman, a distinguished author stated, in reference to this subject: "Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Lieberman represents the worst of Israel's lunatic fringe." An editorial in The Jewish Daily Forward, On Dec. 29, titled: "The Lieberman Question", stated: "What are Diaspora Jews to make of Avigdor Lieberman? In his latest outburst before 170 of Israel's senior diplomats, the pugnacious, rebellious foreign minister called the Palestinian Authority illegitimate, the Turkish prime minister a liar, and ridiculed the central policy of his own government. This is nothing new, of course. In September, Lieberman delivered such an outlandish and offensive speech before the United Nations that it was quickly disowned by the prime minister's office, purportedly his boss."

I think Mr. Riteman should look at the facts before criticising the Herald's news' report.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.