Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
www.fswc.ca

AVI BENLOLO, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CANADA
Toronto, November 9, 2007

MY BLOG

The Spirit of Hope Benefit – Hold the Date

Mark your calendar - Toronto's glitziest affair will take place on May 29, 2008. In the tradition of spectacularly smart, innovative and exciting, this night will exceed all others. The Spirit of Hope Benefit normally attracts over two-thousand of Toronto's out-in-front patrons, business leaders, dignitaries and television stars. Details about the event will follow soon.

On Remembrance Day

On Sunday November 11th at precisely, 11:00 am we will be giving pause and tribute to Canada's fallen war heroes and veterans: those who gave of themselves in the First and Second World Wars and wars which followed. They fought to uphold Canadian values of freedom, of democracy, of respect, of tolerance, of justice and of human rights.

There are many recorded instances of Canadian bravery. One such instance was, The Battle of Normandy (D-Day) which began on November 6, 1944. While the battle led to a decisive victory for the Allied nations against the Nazis, the losses were significant. Canada lost some five thousand soldiers with some thirteen thousand wounded. This was a decisive fight that led to the liberation of concentration camps and cities across Europe.

As we wear our poppies. As we pause in silence. Let us remember this great country's heroes who stood up against the forces of hate and intolerance. At the same time, let us grasp this moment to educate the young about the democratic values we hold so dear. As Simon Wiesenthal said, "Freedom is not a gift from heaven. One must fight for it each and every day".

Exclusive Interview with Dr. Efraim Zuroff (2:00 pm – 11/09/07)

I had the pleasure of chatting with Dr. Ephraim Zuroff this afternoon in my office about his efforts to pursue Nazi war criminals. He wants our constituents to know that we are continuing the efforts of Simon Wiesenthal and that we are today, the only organization in the world which is still actively pursuing Nazi war criminals.

I asked Dr. Zuroff, who is the Nazi that you most wish to capture? He replied, "the top Nazi who we have reasonable chance of bringing to justice is Dr. Aribert Heim. Heim served in three Nazi concentration camps and is notorious for his murder of hundreds of inmates at Mauthausen in the fall of 1941 by injection phenol into their hearts. The Center has offered a reward of one hundred and thirty thousand Euros for information

leading to his capture; as has the German government and four months ago, the Austrian government added an additional fifty thousand Euros to the reward. In the wake of the announcement of these rewards, a very large number of potential leads have come to the offices of the Wiesenthal Center and we are cautiously optimistic he will be brought to justice".

Dr. Zuroff informed me about two other interesting developments: "one is that new evidence has been found against Operation Last Chance suspect, Erna Wallisch who served as a guard at the Majdnik Death Camp in Poland. The other is that we are awaiting a decision from the Hungarian government from the prosecution of Hungarian officer, Dr. Sandor Kepiro who was also discovered in the framework of the Operation". For additional details, please visit www.operationlastchance.org .

I commended Dr. Zuroff for his work on behalf of everyone who appreciates the efforts to bring Nazi's to justice.

On Iran – While the World Sleeps

As I forewarned in my last Blog (November 5), it is possible that Iran is less than a year away from manufacturing its first nuclear bomb. On November 7th, Iran's President Ahmadinejad declared, "today, we have reached 3,000 centrifuges". If true, this would in fact allow Iran to produce enough weapons grade uranium for one nuclear bomb in a year. This would confirm Ilan Berman's analysis given at an FSWC function last month that Iran will be going nuclear sooner than is often thought. Ahmadinejad's open defiance of the international community coupled with genocidal claims (eg. to "wipe Israel off the map") should be cause for concern for all people and for all nations.

In an interview on Wednesday November 7th, commenting on the issue, U.S. President George Bush said, "if you want to see World War Three, a way to do that is to attack Israel with a nuclear weapon". Bush has rightly put Iran on notice. But while the world sleeps, Iran is busily (and without shame) planning for the Third World War.

On Wiesenthal Community Impact

"I've just returned from the Wiesenthal movie. We took 300 kids today, and are taking another 250 on Monday. I am speechless...I am SOOOOOO grateful that I could get so many kids to see this." – An Educator

How many community organizations do you know that are educating thousands of Ontario public school students about hate, racism, antisemitism and intolerance? One of our most sought after tolerance education programme is our theatre screenings of our latest film, "I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal". Over the course of the next two weeks, the film will be shown to a total of 3000 high school students at Cineplex theatres across the GTA. Some participating schools include, 400 Grade 11 students from St. Theresa of Lisieux; 300 students from Milton District High School and 150 students at Brampton Centennial Secondary School. All of the

students seeing the film will be given a reflection assignment on the film created by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. Special thanks to Josh Hacker, FSWC Community Outreach Coordinator for spearheading this important initiative.

Let Them Go!

Canadian designated terrorist organizations, Hamas (Gaza Strip) and Hezbollah (Lebanon) are still holding captive, Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. We have not forgotten them. They must be freed immediately and returned to their families.

Mazal Tov

On behalf of everyone at Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, we would like to wish a hearty Mazal Tov to our good friends Oded and Signe Orgil on the birth of their son, *Lior David*; and to Larry and Jordan Maher on the birth of their twins, *Max and Lily*. We wish both families good health and good fortune.

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FSWC, CALL 416-864-9735 OR TOLL FREE – 1-866-864-9735 OR EMAIL tsteyn@fswc.ca. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO FSWC BRIEFINGS, ALERTS AND TO THIS BLOG, REGISTER AT WWW.FSWC.CA (TOP LEFT OF THE HOME PAGE).

SHARE THIS BLOG WITH A FRIEND