

**OSCE Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect
and Understanding - Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and
Other Forms of Intolerance
Romania, Bucharest, 7 - 8 June 2007**

8 june , 2007

H. E. Ambassador Raouf Saad,
Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Plenary Session 1 – Combating Anti-Semitism 7/9/2007

Following the discussions and interventions made regarding this issue, I
would like to highlight the following concerns

- 1- That the anti-Semitism phenomena don't exist in the Arab world as this concept don't apply to the Arab cultural body, and the Jewish communities are even called "our cousins" in the Arab common spoken language. Its worth mentioning in this regard that the Jewish communities lived and flourished and where fully integrated in the Arab societies till the middle of the past century.
- 2- I noticed that the tone and approach used by many speakers portrayed the Jewish people as hated people and subject to suppression all over the world, to the extent that the Israeli Minister for Social Affairs is asking for governmental protection for the Jewish communities in light of this growing phenomenon and its surge in new regions like Latin America.
- 3- I find that this approach contradicts the facts of life as the Jewish people are strong and influential and rather growing in power in many parts of the world. So the question that poses its self, if such a way of thinking serves the interests of the Jewish people. Moreover, I believe that instead of spreading the negative image, we need to look for the reasons behind that feeling towards Jews.

- 4- To this end, we must make the difference between anti-Semitism and the rejection of the Israeli practices in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- 5- Consequently, I believe that achieving a fair, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East will certainly contribute to contain and reduce this negative feeling against the Jews thus putting the anti-Semitism in its real size.

8/6/2007

Right of reply by H.E. Ambassador Raouf Saad regarding the intervention
the US delegate in the session on
Combating anti-Semitism, as well as the made by the moderator of
The session Dr Gert Wiesskirchen
7/6/2007

Mr. Chairman,

After hearing the interventions made by the lady US delegate, it is the chairmanship's responsibility to ensure that the delegations are not terrorized by certain individuals who are not accustomed to democratic dialogue. I ask you Mr. Chairman, to convey to the OSCE Presidency, our outrage at the deplorable intervention made by the lady delegate which crossed all borders of constructive and diplomatic practices.

Moreover, I ask you Mr. chairman to convey to the OSCE presidency our displeasure with the way the moderator conducted this part of the session. The moderator not only failed in applying discipline on this part of the session, but also made an unnecessary and biased comment regarding my country Egypt.