

Benny Elon says West must
Christianize Muslims, 8 Feb. 04

By Majdur Travail

Israeli cabinet minister says West must Christianize Muslims or face doom.

Benny Elon, chief of Israel's ministry of tourism, demanded that western nations Christianize Muslims by force in order to obliterate Islam. The *Palestinian Information Center* reported that Elon claims that Muslims cannot be converted to Judaism because it belongs to the "Jewish race".

During an interview with Israeli public radio the chairman of the National Union Party said, "Christianizing Muslims voluntarily or forcibly was the only way to save Israel and the West. There is only one way to save Jews and Christians from the Islamic onslaught: Christianize them."

Last year Elon told Christian evangelical leaders during a tour of the American Midwest that Jews and Christians ought to wage worldwide war on Islam for the purpose of obliterating it from the face of earth.

According to a report in the *Jerusalem Post*, Elon asked Christian Missionary groups last week to work to convert Muslims to Christianity in order "to show them the light. Go from mosque to mosque and bring the Muslims into the light," Elon said.

Ahmed Tibi, of the Orthodox Hadash party, said Elon's plan is, "A new movement is rising opposite anti-Semitism by the name of Islamophobia."

Austria resumed diplomatic ties with Israel this week as Israel reinstated its ambassador on Thursday. Austria's President Thomas Klestil met with Elon and Israel's Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger Feb. 2 in Vienna.

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Thomas Klestil(R) and Benjamin Elon (L),
Vienna, Feb. 2 2004

Israel withdrew its diplomatic mission in Austria after the populist Freedom Party joined the government in 2000. The Freedom Party's chairman Jörg Haider has praised Adolf Hitler. The European Union imposed diplomatic sanctions on Austria.

Ironically, Klestil called Iran's government the "axis peace" for its diplomatic efforts during a Jan. 25-27 visit to Tehran. "[We] recognize the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the axis of peacemaking and friendship in the world and the region," Klestil said.

Elon is scheduled to travel next week to Charlotte, North Carolina for the National Religious Broadcasters annual convention where a demonstration against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to remove Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip is scheduled to take place.

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