

**May 4, 2008**

**A Word with Friends,**

**With the approach of the 60th birthday of the State of Israel, the media again finds us and is interested in Open House, both as a symbolic reality and as a concrete example.**

**Almost invariably, I am asked how I feel about our 60th birthday. It seems that all the basic questions surrounding Israel's existence surface again. This Day that we, Jewish people throughout the world, call "Independence Day" is for our Palestinian brothers and sisters "Nakba Day" – commemorating The Catastrophe. The very same day, the very same land, the very same home....**

**How can my cup be full? Full of joy? Full of tears?**

**My entire life till now--and that of my son, Raphael, and the rest of the people in this land—has not even begun to resemble a normal human life...When you really think of it, it is hard to imagine...and there are really no words....**

**Clearly, if there is no freedom for Palestine, there will be no freedom for Israel, and vice versa. More than anything else, Palestinians want Justice; more than anything else Israel wants Acceptance. And perhaps even on these basic needs we may need to compromise. Perhaps Palestinians may need to sacrifice the fulfillment of their sense of *complete Justice* (to the degree that justice means restoration to the pre-1948 reality), and Israel may need to sacrifice the fulfillment of its deep need for *complete Acceptance* (because there might not be complete acceptance for many generations). We may need to sacrifice, perhaps, some dreams and longings for the sake of new dreams --of, for example, how this part of the world will be if we made space for each other and devoted ourselves to be creative together....**

**There is a degree of trust between the parties that is needed for a process where such deep sacrifice becomes possible. The various peace organizations have undertaken the creation of trust between people. We, at Open House, thank you wholeheartedly for your partnership with us and for making it possible for us to continue our work.**

**With blessings for our human fraternity,**

**Dalia**