

## **Recollections and Opportunities**

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I was briefly in Israel a few days before the assassination of Israel's prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin at a peace rally in Tel Aviv. I was appalled to see signs and posters everywhere in Jerusalem, depicting Rabin as a traitor, a Nazi, who should be killed. Benjamin Netanyahu led the extremist Likud Party which was associated with such conduct. At Likud rallies where sometimes "Death to Rabin" was chanted, Netanyahu did not object. Yigal Amir, a young ultranationalist, law student, opposing the Oslo Accords, shot and killed Rabin as the Peace rally concluded on November 4, 1995.

Shimon Peres became Prime Minister, continuing the campaign to implement the Oslo Accords. However, many vicious Palestinian terrorist attacks erupted in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and elsewhere. In response to the terrorist attacks, many Israeli Jews abandoned the Oslo Accords and elected Netanyahu and a right-wing government at the next elections. Yet, various actions taken by many other actors might have sustained progress to a two-state solution. For example, many Jews and/or Palestinians might have had their respective leaders make concessions to reach a formal agreement

Even now, maybe some bundle of actions by various people can foster progress to a peaceful accord between Jews in Israel and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. They include Netanyahu and extremist Orthodox Jews' electoral defeat; the attainment of civil equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel; Arab nations absorbing Palestinian refugees in their midst; greater intervention by the United Nations; and implementing several conditional proposals by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Arab countries to invest in economic development in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. Ultimately, progress will be enhanced as all parties recognize that peace and security are fostered by adopting mutually beneficial efforts rather than by striving only for self-serving gains.