

director of CIPAC is Richard Hellman, a former aide to Senator Howard Baker and an ICEJ activist. The goals of CIPAC are identical to AIPAC but designed to galvanize Christian support for Israel. One of the first objectives of CIPAC was to lobby Congress to make \$10 billion available in US loan guarantees to fund the resettlement of Jews from the former Soviet Union in Israel and the West Bank. The Bush administration linked the loan guarantees to the halting of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Jan Willem van der Hoeven of the ICEJ told the *Jerusalem Post*: '[the] Christian community finds the Bush administration's policy on loan guarantees totally unacceptable'. He claims that 80% of America's evangelical Christians supported the loan guarantees.²³

The Unity Coalition for Israel (UCFI) is probably the most recent network of Christian Zionists to be formed in the US yet it is already the largest and most powerful. The UCFI was founded by Esther Levens in Kansas in 1994 and now comprises a broad coalition of 200 different and autonomous Jewish and Christian organizations representing 40 million members who are 'dedicated to a secure Israel.'²⁴ Their principal strategy is to lobby the US media and political establishment, to challenge what they term 'disinformation and propaganda' and to express 'the truth about Israel'. The UCFI includes three of the largest Christian Zionist organizations: Bridges for Peace, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, and Christians for Israel.

This coalition has a major influence on both the Republican and Democratic parties by providing the bulk of campaign funding to both sides. Aluf Ben, a spokesman for Shimon Peres, was quoted in *Ha'aretz* as claiming '60 percent of all financial help to Democrats came from Jewish sources.'²⁵ According to the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, 'most pro-Israel fund-raisers estimate that at least 60 to 90 percent of Democratic campaign funding comes from Jewish sources, which also supply perhaps 40 percent of Republican funding.'²⁶ Christian Zionists have also been influential in forging a closer relationship with Israel by facilitating solidarity pilgrimages and educational tours to the Holy Land.

23. *Jerusalem Post*, 11 October 1991, cited in Wagner, *Axious for Armageddon*, p. 108.

24. See UCFI's homepage, <<http://www.israelunitycoalition.org>>.

25. See Israel Shahak, 'Ability of US Jewish Groups to set Clinton Agenda Depends on Media', *Washington Report* (June 1995), pp. 10, 94. This article is a translation by Dr Shahak of a former article by Aluf Ben, published in *Ha'aretz*, 17 March 1995.

26. Publisher's page, *Washington Report* (June 1995), p. 122; see also, Lenni Brenner, 'My people are American. My Time is Today: The Demographics of American Jews', *Counterpunch*, 24 October 2003; available online at <<http://www.counterpunch.org/brenner10242003.html>>.