

# DAVID WELCH - דוד וולך



EHUD BARAK  
2008



RUDY GIULIANI  
2009



SHIMON PERES  
2008

June 8, 2009

Maureen Meyer - Academic Coordinator  
International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation  
Tel Aviv University  
PO Box 39040  
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978 - Israel

Dear Miss Meyer and Those Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you, firstly, of my ever-growing interest in your Masters Program in International Conflict Resolution at Tel Aviv University. The second purpose is to enlighten you as to why I am an eligible/desirable candidate for a seat in the program. I am flattered to be considered for this, the pilot year in the English-speaking program, and I am also appreciative of your willingness to review my letter of intent, as I am certain you have received many other similar requests.

I have spent the last year living in and traveling throughout the Middle East, dedicating the majority of my time to the study of Arabic and Hebrew, as well as to the study of the history of the conflicts, power relationships, and geographical/religious/ethnic idiosyncrasies that have helped morph the region into what it is today. I have felt, first-hand, the consequences of diplomatic efforts gone awry, as I was located in Tel Aviv during the most recent conflict between Hamas (located in the Gaza Strip) and the State of Israel. Partially out of perceived existential necessity, and partially out of sheer curiosity, I followed the conflict intimately, and after processing it, I came to the conclusion that, without a proper understanding of the backgrounds and goals of all parties involved in these conflicts, an amiable and sustainable peace will not be achieved through mediation. My curiosity has also been aroused by the "group-think" mentality that the global community seemed to accept/inherit in its demonization of Israel without, in my opinion, a fair and proper understanding of the background of the conflict. This mentality has been exacerbated by the international news media, which has put even more pressure on the peace processes in this sensitive region.

I am not a fatalist, and thus, I prefer to take an active role in making the world community a better place. However cliché that may sound, I don't know of a better way to explain my desire to reject passivity and take an active, while educated and prepared role in the peace processes of the near future. It is for this very reason that I was attracted to your program. A year ago, I was accepted and enrolled in the Masters Program in Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University, and although it has proven to be an academically sound program, I feel, upon graduating from the program, I will still be left with gaps in my understanding of how to participate in diplomacy and conflict resolution, which is my ultimate career goal. When I saw that your department was opening the English-speaking program, the wheels in my head immediately began to spin. I soon determined that I needed to do whatever it took to be accepted and enroll in your program.

As you will see from my transcripts, I have been participating in related courses, workshops and degree programs for the last 10 years. I graduated with a double Bachelors in International Relations and Political Science / Pre-Law because of this very desire to be an influencer for peace, whether that was on a micro or a macro level. My Alma Mater, Indiana Wesleyan University, was in the process of integrating the International Relations Program when I entered and were set back by the unfortunate death of their Chair of the School of Social Sciences. I approached the new Director at the beginning of my junior year of study regarding my desire to graduate with the Bachelor of Science in International Relations. At first, the department refused and said the timing would not permit me to graduate with the program, but through diligent planning and plenty of meetings, I was able to meet all of their requirements for an on-time graduation (including a semester abroad), and was the first graduate with a Bachelor of Science in International Relations from Indiana Wesleyan University. I graduated with honors!

I tell you this, solely to help you understand my ability to accomplish goals and to produce win-win scenarios (of course avoiding clichés whenever possible). If I am offered a seat in your department, you have my word that I will continually seek to accomplish more for the sake of peace.

Anticipating Great Days Ahead,

DAVID WELCH - דוד וולך