

### Correspondence

To the Editor:

As every author, I appreciate the fact that my book, *Middle East Security: Prospects for an Arms Control Regime*, was reviewed (*Bulletin* 33:2, pp. 225-26) and that the names of the authors were spelt correctly.

I object, however, to the statement by the learned reviewer, Houchang Hassan-Yari, that "to engage in a more balanced and constructive debate, the Begin-Sadat Center should include some scholars from Sadat's homeland." This is a blatant distortion of the truth, as firstly, the volume which he reviewed includes a piece by a senior Egyptian diplomat, Mounir Zahran. Secondly, it should be noted that many of our Egyptian colleagues simply refuse to have any contact with their Israeli counterparts, and it is not for the lack of trying that Israelis seeking academic cooperation with Egyptians come up with meager results.

EFRAIM INBAR  
*Bar-Ilan University*

Hassan-Yari responds:

The current violent situation in the Middle East reveals the partial, if not complete, failure of attempts to promote people to people dialogue. What I had expressed in my review of Dr. Efraim Inbar's book was a reference to situations such as the following. The refusal of Egyptian scholars to participate publicly in academic activities with their Israeli colleagues is, in my opinion, a sign of failure of this dialogue. My criticism pre-dates the Intifada II. If the Arab-Israeli dialogue was reinforced by concrete measures such as peace building, the situation would differ. I convey that research centers and academics have a significant role to play. My review was neither a personal criticism of Professor Inbar nor questioning the relevancy of BESA. It is a reminder of all BESA members' responsibility in this extremely difficult juncture. In the book edited by Dr. Efraim Inbar, the Egyptian participation is limited to a former diplomat. Although the latter's participation is a positive sign, this still remains as being a very small contribution to the dialogue. Dr. Inbar affirms that his Egyptian colleagues refused to take part in the BESA project. This clearly shows the insufficiency or failure of measures of Arab-Israeli rapprochement deployed since Camp David 1. BESA will be a success when Egyptian researchers take part in its activities without fear of reprisals initiated by those in Egypt who see them as traitors. This lack of cooperation will persist in the absence of peace between Arabs and Israelis. However, that is another issue on its own!