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Mr. Colin Robinson  
Publisher  
The New Press  
38 Greene Street  
New York, NY 10013

PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL AND  
OFF-THE-RECORD COMMUNICATION -  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I have received your letter of March 26th with regard to Rohit Goel. I have just returned from a trip to Australia. As I told Mr. Goel, I am in the process of obtaining the entire file from the Israeli authorities, which I am told contains the investigative report of the independent investigation. I will forward it to him as soon as I have obtained it.

I am, however, somewhat confused by your letter, which indicates that Mr. Goel's fact-checking is in connection with a book tentatively titled *Everything Old Is New Again: Reflections on the New Anti-Semitism*. As I am sure you know, Mr. Finkelstein has publicly stated on numerous occasions that he is writing a very different book for you, namely a personal attack on me entitled *Letters to an Old Shyster*. Not only has he made this statement on numerous occasions, it has been repeated by others on the internet. I don't know what the situation is, and I certainly have no interest in trying to prevent the publication of any book, since I believe strongly in the marketplace of ideas, but I am concerned that any book you publish not contain false statements about me. That is why I am happy to cooperate with your fact-checker. But thus far your fact-checker has simply asked me about one false assertion made by Finkelstein about me. I am aware of numerous other willfully false and malicious statements that Finkelstein has made in public about me and that he has implied he will publish in his book. For example, he has told numerous audiences that I did not write *The Case for Israel*; that it was ghost-written for me by students; and that I did not even read it. He has asserted that this is "literally" the fact and that the "evidence is very clear" that I did not write or read *The Case for Israel*. As Mr. Finkelstein well knows, I wrote every single word of the text of *The Case for Israel* by hand and I have my hand-written manuscripts to prove it, since I do not type or use a computer. (I did receive assistance on some of the footnotes from student researchers.)

Moreover, I have numerous witnesses who will attest to the fact that every word of the text was written by me. Yet Mr. Finkelstein persists in making this false and defamatory statement.

I do not know what other false and malicious statements appear in the forthcoming book, but based on Finkelstein's past record, I can anticipate that there will be many, since he repeatedly distorts or makes up facts to support his ideological predispositions. Let me illustrate Finkelstein's modus operandi with one of many possible examples.

Mr. Finkelstein has repeatedly asserted that I did not care about Israel until after its victory in the Six Day War and only became a "fair weather friend" of Israel in order to benefit from its victory in that war. This is a part of a more general, preposterous, allegation that the "only two prominent American Jewish intellectuals who were identified with Israel before June 1967 were Noam Chomsky and Hannah Arendt," and that today's leading American Zionists, such as Michael Walzer and Martin Peretz, also didn't care about Israel until after its victory in June 1967. He claims that I actually say "at the very beginning" of *The Case for Israel* that I only "became actively involved in supporting Israel after June 1967." I urge you to look at what I actually say, to see how deceptive Finkelstein is. I say that in 1967 - - not after Israel's victory in June of that year - - I began to make the case for Israel on campuses. In fact, I began to make that case in early 1967 before the war began. I led the student and faculty campaign at Harvard in support of Israel during the months, weeks and days leading up to the Six Day War (along with Walzer and Peretz). Moreover, I have cared deeply about Israel since I was a child in 1948, though I have been publicly critical of some of its policies, in the early 1960's with regard to imposing the death sentence on Eichmann, and since the early 1970' with regard to settlements and occupation. Finkelstein knows this because he has read my earlier book *Chutzpah* in which I describe my activities on behalf of Israel before the Six Day War. Finkelstein's demonstrably and knowingly false statements are all too typical of his modus operandi.

Mr. Finkelstein has made numerous false statements about my use of historical quotations that appear both in my book and in Joan Peters book *From Time Immemorial*. I am in the process of documenting each of Finkelstein's false statements and will be happy to provide them to the fact-checker if he tells me what facts he is checking. With regard specifically to the Twain quote, which he has highlighted in his charge of plagiarism: I have been using that quote since 1970 - - and I can prove it. Moreover, his claim that I use the identical words that were quoted by Peters is demonstrably false. Two entire sentences that appear in Peters were not included in my quote of Twain. Moreover, the same quote appears in numerous books about that historical time period other than Peters. The same is true with regard to my quotations from the Peel Commission Report, which I have also been using for decades. I use many quotes from that report which do not appear in Peters. His charge that I have "plagiarized" my book from Peters is maliciously and demonstrably false. Numerous experts - - including the former President of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences and Dartmouth as well as several experts at Harvard and other universities - - have compared the two books and concluded there is not even an arguable claim of plagiarism and that Finkelstein's charges are totally unfounded and false. If Finkelstein persists in making the false and defamatory claim of plagiarism, it is imperative that he include the fact that experienced experts have concluded that his accusation is false, as well as the undisputed fact that every single sentence and phrase that appears in my book and that was written by others has quotation marks around it. This is essential, since no reasonable person

would conclude that plagiarism can occur unless sentences or phrases written by another are used without indicating they are not the author's words. As far as ideas are concerned, I explicitly state in my book that I do not accept Peters' ideas or her interpretation of the historical quotations.

Finkelstein's most serious defamation is that based on a relatively small number of criticisms, focused on a relatively few pages in a 264 page book dealing with nineteenth century history, he has characterized the entire book as a "hoax," a "fraud," and a product of "plagiarism," and has said that it contains no "facts" or "arguments." This is simply false and unfair and displays his ideological bias and malice. The vast majority of the book deals with contemporary issues and is beyond dispute factually correct and he knows it. Yet he uses words that suggest that he has proved the entire book to be a fake or fraud of some sort. This too is typical of Finkelstein's malicious modus operandi. Nor does he tell his audiences that his sole basis for leveling the false charge of plagiarism is his claim that I originally came upon several quotations I use in my book (all within quotation marks) in Peters book and that I cite to the original sources rather than to Peters. He does not claim that I used even a single phrase or sentence written by Peters without attribution, or that I use a single quotation from any one else without attribution. His bizarre complaint relates solely to a disagreement over whether it is better form to cite the original or to cite the secondary source in which the original quote was first found by the author. He does not tell his audiences that the minor and trivial disagreement is the entire basis for his accusation of plagiarism. Instead, he tells his audiences that I lifted two chapters "practically whole cloth" from Peters. Although he doesn't challenge the accuracy of any of the quotes in my book, he complains that I lifted them from "a hoax," thus implying that I borrowed Peters' conclusions or arguments, which he knows I did not. He simply lies - - even about his own accusations!

Finkelstein and others have pointed out several accidental typographical errors, which I have corrected in subsequent printings. Yet, he persists in repeating them, as if they were deliberate and remain uncorrected. One in particular discloses his malice. On page 80, I discuss Benny Morris' account of a particular phase of the evacuation of Arabs from villages, which became part of Israel in 1948. During this phase, according to Morris, "Arab commanders ordered the villagers to leave..." Obviously the more villagers ordered by Arab commanders to leave, the stronger my argument becomes. Yet, as a result of a secretarial mistranscription, the figure of two to three hundred thousand Arabs became two to three thousand Arabs, thus inadvertently weakening my point. Only a person with malice and no intellectual honesty would claim this self-defeating typo was deliberate, but Finkelstein has persisted in making this obviously false claim.

I am sure you are aware of Mr. Finkelstein's personal animus and malice toward me. Although he has stated that he never engages in ad hominem and that his criticism of me is purely academic, he has publicly called me an "imbecile," a "raving maniac," a "shyster," "evil," a "pathological fraudster," and a "Nazi" comparable to "Adolph Eichmann." When criticized for analogizing Jews to Nazis (he never analogizes them to Stalinists or even Mussolini fascists - - only Nazis) Finkelstein has said: "Nazis never like to hear they're being Nazis." He has also said that he "can't imagine why Israel's apologists would be offended by comparison with the Gestapo." Finkelstein's own connection to neo-Nazis has been documented. He drew cheers

from large Nazi audiences in Germany when he invoked anti-Semitic stereotypes, calling Jewish victims of the Holocaust who seek reparation “greedy,” “cheats” and “a band of crooks and liars”. He also received sustained applause from Holocaust-deniers when he supported their denial by calling Elie Wiesel - - who has written movingly about his experiences at Auschwitz - - a “liar” and a “clown,” and when he said that most “survivors” are “bogus” and have “fabricated their pasts.” And he lent support to Holocaust minimizers when he equated the murder of six million Jews with “other crimes,” characterizing the Holocaust as merely “a Nazi experiment in demographic engineering.” The only constant in Finkelstein’s life has been a hatred of Zionism, the Jewish religion, Holocaust survivors and decency. He is prepared to get into bed with Stalinists or Nazis, as long as they hate Jews, Israel and Holocaust survivors who are seeking justice. He has been aptly described as a Jew who “supports anti-Semitism.” A German writer observed “seldom has a Jew been more celebrated by brown propaganda than Finkelstein.” One neo-Nazi-admirer has called Finkelstein “The Jewish David Irving” - - a reference to the notorious Holocaust denier and Jew-hater who recently lost a defamation suit in England.

His personal animus seems entirely selectively aimed at Jews who either support Israel or justice for Holocaust survivors. He repeatedly uses the same words to characterize his political and ideological enemies: “hoax,” “fraud,” “fake,” “plagiarist,” “liar”, etc. He never uses these loaded words against those who agree with his politics or ideology. It cannot be that Finkelstein - - who claims to be an objective “forensic” analyst - - is incapable of finding any fault with the writings of his ideological soul mates. He is clearly an ideologically selective critic who throw around these ad hominem knowing that they are false but hoping they will stick nonetheless.

Finkelstein is a failed academic who by his own admission had been fired by several colleges and universities. I have learned that the reasons for these firings include serious questions about his academic integrity, his alleged scholarship and biases. I am aware of no peer-reviewed publication that has ever accepted anything from him after review by professionals in his discipline. He has repeatedly lied about his academic status, implying that he is a full professor, when in fact he is a 50 plus year old assistant professor, who was once an associate professor and has now been demoted.

Again, let me emphasize that I have no wish to prevent the publication of anything written by Finkelstein, since everything he writes further discredits him and his publishers among serious people. Finkelstein’s book The Holocaust Industry was devastated by *The New York Times* reviewer who called it “indecent,” “juvenile,” “stupid,” “reckless,” “ruthless,” “irrational,” and “insidious.” I fully anticipate similar reactions to this book. But I do respectfully request that you check each statement he makes about me because of his long track record of making false and defamatory statements about Jewish supporters of Israel and of justice for Holocaust survivors. The repeated use of ad hominem against me surely demonstrate extreme malice and require scrupulous checking of every possibly false statement he makes about me. I respectfully request that your fact-checker provide me with an opportunity to provide refutation to every such allegation in the book, and I await the opportunity to correct his false and malicious defamations before they are published.

Sincerely yours,



cc: New Press Board of Directors