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GRAPEVINE
• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ ALTHOUGH IT was frequently stated in the campaign that Biden is a friend of Israel, there have been attempts by some people in the Trump camp to create the impression that Biden would not be good for Israel, though his record proves otherwise. In an interview with Shalom TV in April 2007, Biden said: "I am a Zionist. You don't have to be a Jew to be a Zionist."

He reiterated this in 2010, when laying a wreath at Herzl's grave. **Yitzhak Eldan**, who was chief of state protocol at the time, recalls that a week later, Brazil's president **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva**, who only six months earlier had hosted president Shimon Peres in Brasilia, had refused to visit Herzl's grave, and instead laid a wreath on the grave of Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. In all fairness however, Lula said: "I dream of an independent and free Palestine living in peace in the Middle East. I believe the Palestinians and Israelis are going to share the land of their forefathers."

During Biden's visit, **Eli Yishai**, who was then interior minister, approved the construction of several thousand housing units across the Green Line without first informing Prime Minister Netanyahu, who had explicitly asked that there be no surprises while Biden was in Israel.

Although there was a certain hostility between president Obama and Netanyahu, Biden was on hand to soothe ruffled feathers, while making no secret of the fact that there were many issues on which he and Netanyahu did not see eye to eye. Speaking in Washington at Israel's 67th Independence Day celebrations in 2015, Biden said: "Everybody knows I love Israel."