



\* **SEIF QADDAFI**, photographed in Vienna in June.

disaster. They cannot move forward or backward.

**What can be done to stop the anti-American sentiment that has taken hold in the Arab world?**

First of all, America has to adopt a neutral and constructive policy in Palestine. Either don't touch it or be constructive, like Clinton. I think Bush was right at the beginning of his presidency, when he was neutral. Then he changed his mind. And he's now supporting Israel without any limits, which is a big mistake. If the Americans can solve the problem in Iraq and play a constructive [role] in Palestine, I'm sure a big change will happen.

**But what do you think the prospects are for peace in the Middle East?**

Zero. And I think for the next two years, there will be no progress in the peace process because Israel is a crazy government. Nobody can make a peace deal with those people. They're destroying houses and killing people and uprooting olive trees. You cannot make peace with people who are destroying and uprooting olive trees, which are the symbol of peace. And they're destroying hundreds of those trees.

**In 2003, Libya reached a financial settlement with the families of the passengers killed in the Pan Am terrorist bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. In your view, was the payment an assumption of Libya's culpability?**

No. It's a very complicated legal issue, and it took years and years to draft that settlement, and we were very careful in that document. Legally, there is a big difference between paying compensation and being guilty. >>>

# Kid Qaddafi

**SEIF QADDAFI, MUAMMAR'S SON, TALKS ABOUT THE NEW LIBYA, AMERICA, AND TERROR**

**SEIF QADDAFI**, 32, is helming the effort of his father, Muammar, to open up Libya to Westerners. **DANIELLE PERGAMENT** spoke with him in Tripoli and, later, Vienna.

**Was it difficult growing up as Muammar Qaddafi's son?**

Yes. Sometimes it was very, very dangerous. Don't forget that one day my house was bombed by Americans when I was there. I was just 14. It was not a very pleasant experience for me.

**What were your views of the United States when you were growing up?**

It was the enemy.

**But now Libya and the United States are getting along.**

**The United States recently eased sanctions against your country in exchange for Libya terminating its WMD programs, and President Bush cites your country's actions as a positive step in the effort to spread democracy.**

We don't need Mr. Bush to teach us a lesson in democracy. We are not the students, and America is not the teacher. It's funny to many Arabs to listen to the president talking about democracy, and at the same time half the population in America still has doubts about his legitimacy

as a president. But I'm very enthusiastic to have cooperation with the rest of the world, to bring democratic standards to the Middle East, because sometimes we need to impose something on our countries from a global level.

**How would you propose solving the problems in Iraq?**

It's too late to be solved. If the Americans are going to stay, it's a problem. If they go, it's a problem. I mean, they got stuck. And I warned them personally before the war. I told the Americans, the British, the Italians, the Spanish. I told the officials that the war would be a



**And the final payment will be paid to the families when Libya is removed from the state-sponsored-terrorism list?**

Yes. We reached an agreement with the Americans that our name should be lifted from that list. The case should be over soon, in a couple of months.

**You served in the Libyan military, correct?**

Yes. The military is part of my life. I grew up in the military barracks. We believe our citizens should be trained as soldiers, and [they] get very sophisticated training in high school. *[In the background, there is a loud roar.]* That was a tiger. Don't worry. He's in captivity. He's not coming to participate in this interview.

**Do you have political aspirations?**

Political aspirations? *[There is a loud peacock squawk outside.]* The peacocks work as an alarm system for me. If they shout like this, it means there's someone around.

**Do you think there is a chance of your becoming the leader of Libya?**

There is a leader.

**"LIBYANS, THEY FORGIVE, BUT THEY DON'T FORGET. THIS IS PART OF THE CULTURE. THEY REMEMBER. NOW IT'S A NEW PAGE. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT."**

**How do you see your role in the future of Libya?**

I can be everything except the leader.

**Why do you hate being called the heir apparent?**

Because I'm not; that's it. And I shouldn't accept that title, which I don't own. This position cannot be inherited. It cannot be passed from father to son.

**So will Libya soon have democratic elections?**



Libya will be a democracy soon. Soon is not in one month or two months. It's a gradual process and an involved process. And soon—meaning in some months, years, not weeks—we will start creating democratic institutions.

**How do you see Libya in fifty years?**

I don't know if I'm going to be around by that time. I'm 32. Plus, fifty—

**Okay, forty.**

It's a very difficult question.

Libya by that time should be a part of the African Union, part of the United States of Africa, the whole continent one nation. And Libya should be a state, like California, the Golden State. Why not? We should be the Golden State in Africa, and we should be integrated with the rest of the Mediterranean

countries. This is the dream of my father. To be the Golden State and the bridge at the same time—two in one.

**Do you have a favorite movie?**

I will tell you the last one [I saw], which was *The Last Samurai*. Fantastic.

**Any favorite music?**

I just like Arab music. Sometimes I listen to Western music, of course, but really just Arab music.

**Do you like fashion?**

Not really. I know lots of designers personally, but to be honest, I'm ignorant on these things. I know some of them. Most of them are Italian designers. I know [Roberto] Cavalli.

**You've never been to the States. Is there anything in particular you'd want to see if you went?**

Yes, many places. Maybe Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

**Libya is a dry country but several people**

**\* QADDAFI FAMILY PORTRAIT: Colonel Muammar Qaddafi is at center; Seif Qaddafi is at far right, on his mother's knee.**

**offered me a drink.**

Oh yeah? Yeah, it happens *[laughs]*. People drink sometimes.

**What do you think Americans should learn about the Libyan culture?**

I think for the Libyans, as you've seen, you know, they forgive, but they don't forget. And this is part of the culture. They remember. Now it's a new page. It's very important.

**They don't forget what, exactly? You're referring to the bombing?**

Everything. Our struggle for about twenty-five years was a long struggle with America, and the bombing was part of that struggle.

**So how do you get past that?**

Ah, they gave us a hard time, and we gave them a hard time, too. And, well, now it's even.

**THE REST OF THE QADDAFI KIDS** Mohammed, mid-thirties, is the head of the telecommunications system in Libya. Saadi, 31, played soccer in Italy and is deputy of the Libyan Football Federation. Al-Mutasem, late twenties, is getting a degree in medicine. Aisha, mid-twenties, is a lawyer in Libya and currently a member of Saddam Hussein's defense team. Hannibal, mid-twenties, is a naval captain in Libya. Khamis, early twenties, is an officer in the Libyan army.