

In June 2005, the CPRF featured a special screening of the new documentary, *The Shape of the Future*, produced by Search for Common Ground. Susan Collin Marks, the co-executive producer, and John Bell, incoming director of the Middle East program at Search for Common Ground, were there to give background information and answer questions.

*The Shape of the Future* is a TV documentary series that portrays on a very human level what an eventual Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement could look like. The emphasis is on the future, not on the past – which makes this a unique documentary effort. There are no scenes of violence and no historical footage.

The series explores the background, the various positions, and the options for settlement in each of the disputed final status issues. Programs look at the following questions:

- Settlements
- Refugees
- Jerusalem
- Security and the quest for a normal life

The series is a Common Ground Production that has been produced in Hebrew, Arabic, and English-language versions. It will be aired on Israeli and Palestinian TV in July 2005.

Background music for the series is by David Broza and Said Murad, two of the most popular Israeli and Palestinian performers. The theme song, *In My Heart*, is being released as a music video.

**Background.** While the Middle East abounds with skepticism, numerous observers – Palestinian, Israeli, and international – believe that Israeli-Palestinian peace is possible. A frequently heard maxim is that both sides can see the light at the end of the tunnel; they simply cannot find the tunnel. We have made a TV series about the light – not how to find the tunnel.

**Funding.** Funding for the series has been provided by the European Union and by the Canadian, Dutch, Finnish, German, and Swedish governments, along with the Sagner Family Fund, Gordon McCormick, and Rawinder Singh.

**Common Ground Productions (CGP).** CGP is the TV and radio production division of Search for Common Ground, a Washington and Brussels-based NGO that works around the world to prevent and resolve conflict.

**John Marks**, president of Search for Common Ground, produced and wrote the films. **Susan Collin Marks**, the co-executive producer, is the executive vice president of Search for Common Ground.

*"This documentary series examines the fears and aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians in an even-handed way. It shows how a negotiated agreement could address those fears and aspirations and do so without threatening the national existence of either side. Israel and Egypt were able to accomplish this task at Camp David more than 25 years ago and this series supports the belief that Israelis and Palestinians can do the same."* – Former US President Jimmy Carter