

## Heard on the Hill

**Congress congratulates Israel on 40th anniversary of Six-Day War victory.** The House passed a resolution that congratulates the citizens of Israel on the 40th anniversary of the Six-Day War and praises the Jewish state for reunifying Jerusalem and protecting religious freedom in the city. Jerusalem's reunification is one of the most important legacies of the Six-Day War, during which Israel defeated an existential threat posed by three Arab armies massed on its borders. The House measure also calls on the president to abide by the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act of 1995 and move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The resolution was co-sponsored by Reps. TOM LANTOS (D-CA) and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-FL).

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**House panel approves aid to Israel.** The House Appropriations Committee passed a foreign aid bill that includes \$2.4 billion in military aid to Israel as part of the fiscal year 2008 budget. In addition to monetary aid, the bill also contains policy provisions restricting aid to the Palestinians, requiring reports on the Lebanese government's progress in disarming Hizballah and calling for an audit of the U.N. agency that runs Palestinian refugee camps.

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**Senator urges hastened establishment of office to handle Iran investments.** Senate Banking Committee Chairman CHRISTOPHER DODD (D-CT) wrote a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission urging it to fully develop its Office of Global Security Risk, which was established by Congress in 2004 to protect American investors from unknowingly supporting state sponsors of terror such as Iran. "It is critically important that the intent of Congress be fully followed as soon as possible, particularly given the importance of this office's missions to promoting human rights, U.S. security interests, and investor knowledge," Dodd wrote. •NER•

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# NEAR EAST

## Report

JUNE 15-30, 2007

**AIPAC'S BIWEEKLY ON AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY**

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

#### Enduring Principles

The approaching fifth anniversary of President Bush's landmark speech laying out his vision of "two states, living side-by-side in peace and security" is a sad reminder of Abba Eban's famous quip that "the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

Instead of following Israel's example by adopting Bush's two-state proposal on the basis of terminating terrorism, the Palestinians elected a Hamas government dedicated to the destruction of Israel through violence and terrorism. Bush's vision can only be accomplished if the Palestinians accept his call to "elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror."

Bush offered the Palestinians full U.S. support for establishing the first Palestinian state ever. He asked that in return, they elect a new leadership that would fight terrorism. "A Palestinian state will never be created by terror," he said. Both Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his successor, Ehud Olmert, accepted Bush's two-state proposal.

But Yasir Arafat, who led the Palestinian Authority until his death in late 2004, had other ideas. Despite his formal commitment to Israel in 1993 to ...see *Editor's Comments cont'd on pg. 46*

## Strong Alliance

**HIGH-LEVEL TALKS UNDERSCORE THE VITALITY OF U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC TIES**

Senior U.S. and Israeli officials met in Washington this month for a strategic dialogue on some of the most critical issues facing the two allies, including Iran's nuclear arms program, rising instability in Lebanon and the growth of Islamic extremism throughout the Middle East.

"These talks reflect the deep historical and security ties between the United States and Israel, based on our shared values and common interests," said the U.S. and Israeli delegations in a joint statement after the meeting. "The United States and Israel attach the highest importance to these meetings. The meeting provided a welcome opportuni-



Photo by the Associated Press

**Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz attended the recent U.S.-Israel strategic dialogue.**

ty to discuss a broad range of issues that characterize our close relationship."

The two sides devoted particular attention to the need for continued diplomatic pressure on Iran and the imposition of robust sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The United States has led international efforts to cut off the funds Iran needs to pursue nuclear weapons. To date, the Islamic Republic has rebuffed the U.N. Security Council's multiple demands to halt its efforts to enrich uranium—a key step toward producing atomic arms—and faces further sanctions as a result of its non-compliance.

The dialogue was led by Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transportation Shaul Mofaz.

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## Isolation Strategy

UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE NICHOLAS BURNS OUTLINED U.S. EFFORTS TO BLOCK IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

Unlike some countries that hope Iran will not become a nuclear weapons power, our policy is that Iran shall not become a nuclear weapons power.

And so that means that we have to marshal a wide array of options to prevent that from happening. We've tried to provide for multiple points of pressure against the Iranians to drive up the cost to them of their nuclear ambitions and to force them to the negotiating table.

First and foremost, we have passed two Security Council sanctions resolutions against Iran.



Photo by the Associated Press

**U.S. policy is that Iran "shall not" obtain atomic arms, Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said.**

Secondly, we've tried to make those sanctions as strong as they can be. I think we're heading toward a third Security Council resolution at the end of this month or early in July, because I don't think that Iran is going to agree to suspend its enrichment program, which is what we've demanded that Iran do. And if Iran cannot make that commitment in the next couple of weeks, we will sponsor a third Security Council resolution.

### The International Community Has Sanctioned Iran

What we've tried to do in these resolutions is to say that those people that work in Iran's nuclear industry should not study in our universities, and they should not be free to travel anywhere in the world. That's a voluntary ban right now on travel; we want to make it mandatory.

There is a ban in the last Security Council resolution on Iran's ability to export arms—to anyone. We think they're violating



UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS  
NICHOLAS BURNS

• EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS  
REGARDING IRAN •  
JUNE 4, 2007

that, because they've been exporting arms, unfortunately, to the Taliban in Afghanistan as they export arms to Hizballah and to Shia militant groups operating inside Iraq.

We've gone after the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. This is the body, the organ of the Iranian state that is responsible for not just most of the nuclear weapons apparatus and the ballistic missile programs, but also the support to terrorist groups. And we've now made them an object of international sanctions, and we'd like to expand that in the next Security Council resolution.

### The United States is Working Inside and Outside the U.N. to Contain Iran

So doing as much as we can through the Security Council is going to be important. But frankly, I think we've got to do more than that. I think we have to go outside the Security Council as well. Whatever we choose to do in the Security Council will be important, but if we can ask Europe and Japan and South Korea and the Gulf states to take even stronger measures on their own, that might be truly effective in signaling to the Iranians it's not business as usual.

The Europeans had \$22 billion in export credits made available to their own companies last year and the year before to stimulate trade with Iran. And we've said to

the Europeans, isn't this a little bit contradictory? We don't support what the Iranians are doing on the nuclear side or the terrorism front, so there shouldn't be a business-as-usual, commercial attitude on the part of Europeans and the European Union with Iran. We'd like to see those export credits not just reduced, but completely eliminated.

Now in addition to those formal, state-to-state sanctions, Secretary [of the Treasury Henry] Paulson and we have been working to try to convince European and Asian financial institutions that they ought to restrict lines of credit and lending with the Iranian government. We've had some success. I don't want to exaggerate this—there's still too much money going into Iran. But we've seen now investment channels begin to be constricted.

And we've pointed out to some of the European banking institutions, in particular, what they might not have known, and that is that the Iranians tend to use legitimate financial institutions to launder their money to terrorist groups. And we know that they've been doing that with Hamas and Hizballah. And so you've begun to see some European banks shut down those opportunities.

### America Is Committed to Preserving Peace in the Persian Gulf

We've also decided that in the [Persian] Gulf itself, we wanted to demonstrate to the Iranians that that's not an Iranian lake. And so you've seen us for the first time since the first Gulf War in 1991 deploy two carrier battle groups to the Gulf over the last month or so. And that American naval presence, we say, is not new, and it's certainly not meant to be provocative. We are the principal guarantor of security and peace and stability in that part of the world, and we intend to exercise it.

We believe in encompassing 360 degrees in points of pressure on the Iranians to let them know there's a price for their behavior.

The object of this is not just to be punitive, just for the sake of being punitive. It's to say to the Iranians, you may think that you're doing what is in your interest, but there's going to be an increasingly high price to you for these actions. •NER•

# Jihad Rising

**IN LEBANON, GAZA AND OTHER AREAS, ISRAEL IS CONFRONTING A THREAT FROM AL-QAEDA AND AFFILIATED GROUPS THAT HAVE ATTACKED CIVILIANS, CLASHED WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND THREATENED THE JEWISH STATE**

Since May 20, the Lebanese military has been engaged in violent clashes with al-Qaeda-inspired militants at the Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon.

The deadly standoff highlights a disturbing reality confronting the Middle East today: Al-Qaeda and its affiliates—often known collectively as “global jihad”—have taken root throughout the region and staged attacks in the territory of several of Israel’s neighbors.

In addition to the ongoing clashes in Lebanon, al-Qaeda-inspired terrorists have struck hotels, bookstores, Internet cafes and schools in Gaza, Jordan and Egypt. According to security analysts and officials, Israel itself could be their next target.

## Al-Qaeda-Linked Terrorists Have Taken Root Among Palestinians

Al-Qaeda and its affiliates have found natural safe havens in Palestinian areas in Lebanon, where governing authorities have failed continuously to fulfill basic responsibilities.

Nahr el-Bared, where the Lebanese army is clashing with a jihadist group known as Fatah al-Islam, is under the nominal control of the United Nations, but the U.N. agency that administers the camp takes no responsibility for policing it or any of the 11 other Palestinian camps it runs in Lebanon.

Moreover, while Arab states frequently support Palestinians with florid rhetoric bashing Israel, they impose severe restrictions on those living within their borders. The estimated 200,000 Palestinians in Lebanon are prohibited from owning property or receiving state health care and banned from 72 areas of employment.

Fatah al-Islam has taken advantage of this atmosphere of lax security and economic deprivation. Last year, it sent fighters to the Palestinian camps to offer local terrorist groups support in launching attacks on Israelis. By the end of the year, according to the Associated Press, Fatah al-Islam had about 150 recruits in Nahr el-Bared and nearly 200 in other Palestinian camps throughout Lebanon.

## Gaza Has Attracted Al-Qaeda-Inspired Terrorists

A similar dynamic is at work in Gaza, where the government is divided into warring factions—President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah and the rival terrorist group Hamas—that have engaged in increasingly bloody clashes since the beginning of the year.

The breakdown in law and order has transformed the strip into an inviting base for al-Qaeda-inspired terrorists.

“The Gaza Strip will soon become an international base for global jihad,” a senior Palestinian security official told Israeli journalist Khaled Abu Toameh of *The Jerusalem Post*. “We are no longer in control and we don’t know what to do. We don’t have a strong leader who is capable of making tough decisions.”

This year, groups affiliated with al-Qaeda have attacked a Christian bookstore, Internet cafes and Western-run schools.

## The Global Jihad Movement Threatens Israel

Operating in countries surrounding Israel, al-Qaeda and its affiliates present a clear security challenge to the Jewish state.

In addition to the recent incidents in Gaza and Lebanon, groups linked to al-Qaeda have bombed tourist resorts and hotels in both Jordan and Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula.

There is little doubt that al-Qaeda would like to attack Israel—Osama bin Laden’s chief deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has called on Muslims throughout the world to strike the Jewish state. The head of Israel’s Shin Bet security service has reported signs of the global jihad movement in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Al-Qaeda-inspired activity presents yet another threat to Israel, which is already guarding against dangers ranging from Palestinian suicide bombers to Iran’s nuclear ambitions. On each of Israel’s fronts, global jihad is now a local concern. •NER•

## EXPANDING THREAT

SIGNS OF AL-QAEDA ACTIVITY IN AREAS SURROUNDING ISRAEL



**GAZA**  
Al-Qaeda terrorists have infiltrated Gaza and are blamed for blowing up schools, bookstores and Internet cafes over the past months.



### LEBANON

Forces linked to al-Qaeda and based in a Palestinian camp have clashed with Lebanon’s military this year.



**SYRIA**  
Qaeda-linked fighter Shaker al-Absi, shown here, entered Lebanon from Syria last year.



### EGYPT

Since 2004, groups tied to al-Qaeda have bombed several Sinai resorts frequented by Israelis.



### JORDAN

Terrorists allied with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi killed a U.S. diplomat and bombed Amman hotels in 2005.

“renounce the use of terrorism and other acts of violence,” he continued to preside over a Palestinian campaign of terrorism against Israel. Mahmoud Abbas, who replaced Arafat and committed to non-violence, failed to take effective measures against terrorism.

Things got even worse early last year, when the Palestinians elected a Hamas government. Hamas continues to adhere to its infamous charter, which calls for Israel's destruction and for the killing of Jews. Despite heavy international pressure, Hamas has rejected the Quartet's conditions of recognizing Israel, accepting previous agreements and renouncing terrorism. It kidnapped Corporal Gilad Shalit, has fired thousands of rockets at Israeli towns and villages, and continues to attempt suicide bombings and other forms of terrorism.

At the time of this writing, the recently created Hamas-Fatah “unity” government has fallen apart in the wake of bloody confrontations between adherents of the two factions. It is not apparent as of yet what shape the next Palestinian leadership will take.

What is clear is that, in order to meet the president's principles, the Palestinians must be truly committed to combating terrorism and to peaceful coexistence with Israel. In that eventuality, the Palestinians would find both the United States and Israel willing partners in promoting the U.S. vision of a peaceful Palestinian state. •NER•

## Medical Center

### HADASSAH'S JERUSALEM HOSPITAL HAS BECOME A HAVEN FOR PATIENTS SEEKING ADVANCED CARE AND A LINK BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

When a 58-year-old Pakistani citizen recently needed cardiac surgery to open his blocked arteries, he chose to have the work done in Jerusalem. His confidence in Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem came as no surprise to the world-renowned hospital's medical staff.

During the darkest days of the Palestinian campaign of violence that began in 2000, CBS News named a “60 Minutes” segment on Hadassah hospital “An Island of Sanity within a Sea of Madness.” At that time, it was not unusual to see the trauma center filled with the severely wounded—sometimes even a Palestinian terrorist lying alongside his victims. One senior trauma surgeon explained it this way: “We don't think about what a person's done when we are operating. We just work on them.”

This reflects the hospital's philosophy from its founding early in the 20th century by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and remains its operational mandate today: treating individuals with equal

care and medical expertise without regard to the patient's religious, ethnic or political background. In addition, the umbrella Hadassah Medical Organization has been engaged in numerous coalitions with Palestinian medical institutions that promote peaceful coexistence through medicine, earning it a nomination for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

One effort, *Peace through Health—Middle East Partnership in Emergency Medical Care Program*, is a joint project between Hadassah, Augusta Victoria Hospital in eastern Jerusalem and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Since the project's inception five years ago, more than 400 Israeli, Palestinian and American physicians have been trained in emergency care and have successfully created a network of contacts across the Israeli-Palestinian divide.

It is just one of numerous similar projects—from lifesaving work on Palestinian pediatric cardiac patients to training more Palestinian dentists—that daily build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians. •NER•

### Strong Alliance....cont'd from pg. 43

Senior officials from the White House, the Vice President's office, the Defense Department, the Israeli Defense Ministry and Israel's U.S. embassy also joined the dialogue.

The talks underscored longstanding cooperation between the United States and Israel on key security issues.

Just this past week, Israeli and American fighter pilots conducted joint military exercis-

es in southern Israel. The exercises constitute “part of a multi-year working plan involving joint flights for the purpose of mutual learning,” an Israeli military spokeswoman said.

Earlier this year, the allies signed a landmark homeland-security pact that pledged joint cooperation on issues such as airline security, explosives detection, and responding to terrorist and criminal activities. •NER•

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