



MEMO

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Making the Case for Aid to Israel

FY 2007 foreign aid request for Israel: \$2.46 billion

\$2.34 billion in military aid

\$120 million in economic aid

U.S. aid to Israel is a cost-effective tool of U.S. foreign policy that enhances American national security interests by strengthening our only democratic ally in an unstable and vital region of the world. Israel stands shoulder to shoulder with the United States in countering the most dangerous threats the U.S. faces in the region including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by rogue regimes. Israel and the United States also share the strongest resolve in working together to fight the global war on terror.

U.S. aid to Israel promotes vital American security interests.

- Israel is a reliable, pro-American stabilizing force in an otherwise volatile, but critical region of the world.
- Israel stands shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the global war on terror and in countering the most dangerous threats the U.S. faces in the region, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Israel plays a vital, behind the scenes role in helping U.S. forces in the region – by providing invaluable intelligence, sharing proven military tactics faced by both armies in similar situations, and contributing important military technologies utilized in U.S. military campaigns both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

U.S. aid keeps Israel strong at a time of increasing threats, ensuring that Israel maintains its qualitative military advantage—the key to Israel's survival and deterrent capabilities.

- Every American president and Congress since the 1960s has promoted the importance of maintaining Israel's qualitative edge over its potential adversaries as a cornerstone of the U.S.-Israel relationship.
- U.S. support helps counterbalance the 10:1 disparity in military spending by the Arab states in the region and helps reduce the risk of war by ensuring Israel's strength against any combination of threats.
- While Israel strives to maintain a qualitative edge over her potential rivals, the Jewish state nevertheless needs to deter and confront adversaries in the face of increased proliferation of weapons in the region and terrorism backed by Islamic radicalism.

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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U.S. aid enhances the prospects for peace by making clear to Israel's would-be adversaries that there is no military alternative to negotiations.

- Beyond the direct financial benefits, the annual aid package approved by Congress signals to Israel and its adversaries that the U.S. commitment to Israel remains steadfast and unshakeable.
- By reinforcing Israel's deterrent capability, U.S. aid sends a strong message to those that wish to destroy Israel that there is no military option.

U.S. economic aid to Israel is being phased out and overall aid reduced.

- Israel's aid request for fiscal year 2007 is \$2.46 billion, \$60 million less than last year's total. This includes: \$120 million in economic aid and \$2.34 billion in military assistance.
- This is the ninth year of Israel's plan to reduce economic assistance and overall aid, while gradually increasing military aid.
- Since 1998, Israel's bold aid initiative has saved the United States \$1.80 billion dollars. At the end of the reduction period, Israel's overall aid will be reduced from \$3 billion dollars to \$2.4 billion. That is a net savings for the United States of \$600 million each year.

U.S. aid to Israel is included in the annual foreign aid appropriations bill.

- Congress must approve the overall foreign aid bill each year which includes not only aid to Israel but other bilateral military and economic aid, humanitarian and development assistance and trade promotion programs.
- Aid to Israel as a proportion of the overall foreign aid budget has declined from 25 percent to about 10 percent.

U.S. foreign aid is critical in bolstering American leadership in the world.

- Foreign assistance programs are cost-effective ways to advance U.S. national and security interests throughout the world which have become even more important since 9/11.
- At less than one and a half percent of the federal budget, foreign aid provides the United States with the tools to pursue an active and engaged American foreign policy.

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