

MEMMO

May 10, 2010

Administration Reaffirms Value of U.S.-Israel Alliance

President Obama, top members of his administration, and senior military leaders have highlighted the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and reaffirmed that a strong and secure Israel advances U.S. national security interests. They have renewed their firm commitment to Israel's security and clearly explained that the United States cannot and does not seek to impose a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The United States has reaffirmed that the U.S.-Israel relationship is unbreakable and rooted in shared values.

- “As for our relations with Israel, let me be very clear: we have a special relationship with Israel and that will not change. Our countries are bound together by shared values, deep and interwoven connections, and mutual interests.” —**President Barack Obama, Letter to Alan Solow (Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations), April 20, 2010**
- “We know deep in our souls that we have an unshakable bond and we will always stand not just with the Government of Israel but with the people of Israel.” —**Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Remarks at the American Jewish Committee Annual Gala Dinner, April 29, 2010**
- “We will never forget that since the first minutes of Israeli independence, the United States has had a special relationship with Israel. And that will not change. Why? Because this is not a commitment of Democrats or Republicans; it is a national commitment based on shared values, deep and interwoven connections, and mutual interests.” —**National Security Advisor General James Jones, Remarks to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, April 21, 2010**
- “Our bond with Israel is unshakable and unbreakable both as it relates to security, as it relates to the common set of value[s], and also as a common strategic vision, because the threats to Israel are similar to some of the threats the United States faced.” —**White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, The Charlie Rose Show, April 19, 2010**
- “We have an exceptionally strong relationship with Israel.” —**Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, April 20, 2010**



President Barack Obama reaffirmed America's special relationship with Israel.

The administration has reaffirmed that America and Israel have a strong strategic relationship that advances U.S. national security interests.

- “As President Obama has said, a strong and secure Israel—and an Israel at peace with its neighbors—is critical not only to the interests of Israelis and Palestinians, but vital to our own strategic interests.” —**Clinton, Remarks at the American Jewish Committee Annual Gala Dinner, April 29, 2010**
- “As President Obama has affirmed, the United States’ commitment to Israel’s security is unshakeable, and our defense relationship is stronger than ever, to the mutual benefit of both nations. The United States and our ally Israel share many of the same security challenges, from combating terrorism to confronting the threat posed by Iran’s nuclear weapons program.” —**Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Press Conference, April 27, 2010**
- “Many of the same forces that threaten Israel also threaten the United States and our efforts to secure peace and stability in the Middle East. Our alliance with Israel serves our national security interests.” —**Obama, Letter to Alan Solow (Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations), April 20, 2010**
- “I can also say from long experience that our security relationship with Israel is important for America. Our military benefits from Israeli innovations in technology, from shared intelligence, from exercises that help our readiness and joint training that enhances our capabilities and from lessons learned in Israel’s own battles against terrorism and asymmetric threats.” —**Jones, Remarks to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, April 21, 2010**
- “We have long recognized that a strong, secure, and successful Israel is our common goal, but it is also vital to America’s strategic interests.” —**Clinton, Remarks at the Dedication of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, April 15, 2010**
- “Israel...has been, is and will be an important strategic ally of the United States.” —**General David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command, Remarks to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, April 13, 2010**
- “The Israelis, of course, remain a vital ally and a cornerstone of our regional security commitments.” —**Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, February 23, 2010**
- “As we strive toward a comprehensive peace in the region between Israel and its neighbors, the closeness of our defense relationship and cooperation with Israel will continue.” —**Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review Report, February 2010**

The United States is strongly committed to maintaining Israel’s security.

- “As we continue to strive for lasting peace agreements between Israel, the Palestinians, and Israel’s neighbors, all sides should understand that our commitment to Israel’s security is unshakeable and that no wedge will be driven between us. We will have our differences, but when we do, we will work to resolve them as close allies.” —**Obama, Letter to Alan Solow (Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations), April 20, 2010**
- “The United States will never waiver in defense of Israel’s security. That is why we provide billions of dollars annually in security assistance to Israel, why we have reinvigorated our consultations to ensure Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge, and why we undertake joint military exercises, such as the Juniper Cobra ballistic missile defense exercise that involved more than 1,000 United States servicemen and women. We view these efforts as essential elements of our regional security approach, because many of the same forces that threaten Israel also threaten the United States.” —**Jones, Remarks to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, April 21, 2010**

- “I know how rock solid and unwavering [President Obama’s] commitment is to Israel’s security and Israel’s future.” —**Clinton, *Remarks at the Dedication of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, April 15, 2010***

The Obama administration has made clear that solutions cannot be imposed Israel and the Palestinians from the outside.

- “I am deeply committed to fulfilling the important role the United States must play for peace to be realized, but I also recognize that in order for any agreement to endure, peace cannot be imposed from the outside; it must be negotiated directly by the leaders who are required to make the hard choices and compromises that take on history.” —**Obama, *Letter to Alan Solow (Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations), April 20, 2010***
- “In our pursuit of a two-state solution, we recognize that peace must be made by the parties and cannot be imposed from the outside.” —**Jones, *Remarks to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, April 21, 2010***