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Israel, U.S. say it's business as usual as warplane plant unveiled

Israel and the United States used the inauguration of a joint warplane project on Tuesday to stress it was business as usual in an alliance hit by acrimony over Israeli settlement building and strategy against Iran. At a ceremony at the Israeli manufacturer of wings for Lockheed Martin Corp's F-35 jet fighter, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon described his country's participation in the project as evidence that bilateral ties were bullet-proof. "The special relationship between the United States and Israel is stronger than any disagreement," Yaalon said in a speech at the new wings factory in state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries' (IAI) campus, near Tel Aviv. "And there is no dispute on the gratitude that the people of Israel owe the United States for supporting our strength and security," said Yaalon, whose scorn for Palestinian peace talks has raised hackles in Washington. U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro, who spoke at the IAI event after both countries' flags were raised and national anthems sung, echoed Yaalon's confidence in the alliance.

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.