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Ya'alon and Carter Begin Talks on Maintaining Israeli Military Edge

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and U.S. Secretary of State Ashton Carter have opened talks on the defense package Washington will offer Israel over the next decade. Ya'alon, who was in the U.S. on an official visit to discuss the package, spoke at the Israeli Embassy in Washington on Monday night at a memorial event marking 20 years since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Today, 20 years later [after the assassination], the United States is Israel's greatest friend. Its contribution to our security is tremendous and is truly our strategic cornerstone," he said. "The relationship between the United States and Israel is based on shared values and interests, and is clearly expressed in the strong ties between our defense establishments, armed forces and intelligence agencies," Ya'alon said. According to The Jerusalem Post, Ya'alon thanked "the American people, President Barack Obama and the Congress, for your contribution and commitment to our [Israel's] security. There is no truer friend of Israel than the United States of America. And no difference of opinion can harm this relationship."