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Defense Secretary Mattis Reaffirms U.S. Commitment to Israel

On April 20, U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis arrived in Israel for a two day visit—his first trip to the Jewish state since becoming defense secretary. During his visit, he met with top Israeli officials, including President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman. In his meeting with Rivlin, the Pentagon chief pledged U.S. commitment to Israel's security. "We are committed to Israel's defense. We support Israel's internal security and Israel's external security." He also pledged to work with the Jewish state on shared threats. "We're not alone in how we look at terrorists. We're not alone how we look at Iran's problems, so it's time for us to all work together," the secretary said. "But certainly the enduring relationship with Israel will be stronger every day." In a joint press conference with Defense Minister Lieberman, Mattis reinforced the need to confront Iran's destabilizing behavior: "Iran continues to threaten Israel and its neighbors with ballistic missiles through its maritime and cyber activities and through proxies and surrogates, including Lebanese Hezbollah, a terrorist organization helping to keep [Syrian dictator Bashar Assad] in power in Syria."

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.