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## **Israeli Defense Minister Meets with Top U.S. Officials to Reaffirm Bilateral Relationship**

On March 7, Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman traveled to Washington to meet with top U.S. officials including Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Defense James Mattis. Lieberman and Pence emphasized during their meeting the "unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to upholding Israel's qualitative military edge." They also discussed "the need to counter threats posed by Iran and its proxies, as well as terrorist organizations, and discussed ways in which our militaries can work even more closely together to address shared threats." During a meeting with his American counterpart at the Pentagon, the Israeli defense chief called for an "active America" in the Middle East. Lieberman and Mattis also discussed a range of regional issues including Iran, Syria and Lebanon, and praised U.S.-Israel security ties. Lieberman's visit comes on the heels of U.S. European Command Head, General Curtis Scaparrotti visiting Israel for a series of meetings.