

The week of December 2, 2016

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

AIPAC Press Release: Senate Joins House in Passing Iran Sanctions Extension Act

AIPAC applauds the U.S. Senate for unanimously passing the Iran Sanctions Extension Act today. The House previously adopted this critical measure on Nov. 15. When enacted into law, it would preserve the basic architecture of U.S. sanctions on Iran's dangerous nuclear program and other problematic activities, including support of terrorism, illegal arms trade and illicit ballistic missile program. First passed by Congress in 1996, the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) is set to expire on Dec. 31 unless this extension becomes law. Congress' decisive action signals American determination to enforce the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran and re-impose currently waived sanctions if Iran violates the deal. Unfortunately, Tehran has only stepped up its malign behavior since the JCPOA was implemented in January. Iran has harassed American military forces, procured prohibited technology, tested nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and stoked regional conflicts. The United States must push back against Iran's behavior, and respond to violations of the JCPOA, U.S. law or United Nations Security Council resolutions with certain, swift and severe penalties. President Obama will reportedly sign the bill into law.

AIPAC Press Release: House Reaffirms Support for Direct Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, Opposition to Imposed Solutions

AIPAC applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for adopting H. Con. Res. 165. This bipartisan resolution reaffirms support for direct Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations leading to a sustainable two-state solution, and it reiterates opposition to United Nations (U.N.) Security Council efforts that would impose a solution to the conflict. The resolution was introduced by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY). The measure states that "it is the long-standing policy of the United States Government that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only come through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two parties." It further notes that "efforts to impose a solution or parameters for a solution can make negotiations more difficult and can set back the cause of peace." Warning against "any widespread international recognition of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood outside of the context of a peace agreement with Israel," the resolution calls on the United States "to oppose and veto United Nations Security Council resolutions that seek to impose solutions to final status issues, or are one-sided and anti-Israel." Finally, the resolution urges Washington "to support and facilitate the resumption of negotiations without preconditions between Israelis and Palestinians toward a sustainable peace agreement." In September, 88 senators signed a bipartisan letter urging President Obama to maintain long-standing

U.S. policy and veto any one-sided U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

The text of the resolution can be found [here](#) and the letter can be found [here](#).

House Passes Two U.S.-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Bills

On Nov. 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed by voice vote two bills that would enhance bilateral cybersecurity cooperation between the United States and Israel. Introduced by Reps. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) and Jim Langevin (D-RI), the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016 (H. R. 5877) and the United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2016 (H.R. 5843) would both promote and deepen cybersecurity collaboration between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Israel's Ministry of Public Security. Specifically, the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act would advance a joint research and development program at the U.S. Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency to include cybersecurity technologies. Also, the United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act would establish a cybersecurity grant program for joint research and development opportunities between Israeli and American entities. The two bipartisan bills were inspired by the lawmakers' trip to Israel last May, where they met with Israeli cybersecurity leaders in the public and private spheres. "Israel is a vital strategic partner, and I'm pleased to be working closely with Rep. Langevin to preserve and strengthen this important bond through joint cybersecurity efforts. Cybersecurity is national security, and enhancing joint research and development efforts between the United States and Israel will improve our countries' ability to deter malicious cyber actors," said Ratcliffe, chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies. "My trip to Israel with Congressman Ratcliffe was an illuminating experience, and reinforced my belief that our countries have much to learn from one another when it comes to cybersecurity," said Langevin, co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus. "Our legislation will further strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship and drive innovative, collaborative thinking about homeland security priorities." The bills now await action in the Senate.

U.S.-Israel Foundation to Invest \$12 Million in Joint R&D Projects

The U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation (BIRD) announced in November that it will invest \$12 million to fund projects that advance emergency services technology. The "NextGen First Responder Technologies" program—jointly administered by the Israeli Ministry of Public Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate—fosters research and development (R&D) in fields critical to first responders such as communications, data analysis, explosives and hazards detection, protective clothing, sensors, simulation and training, situational awareness and wearable technologies. "This binational cooperation creates synergistic capabilities to handle emergency situations while using innovative technologies to save lives," said BIRD Executive Director Eitan Yudilevich. "The program extends and enhances the successful collaboration that already exists between the U.S. and Israel in science and technology in the homeland-security sector."