



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of November 11, 2016

## U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

### **AIPAC Press Release: AIPAC Congratulates President-Elect Trump, Vice President-Elect Pence and Incoming Congress**

AIPAC congratulates President-Elect Donald Trump and Vice President-Elect Mike Pence on their election victory. We also congratulate the elected and re-elected senators and representatives who will be part of the most pro-Israel Congress ever, and look forward to working with them and the new administration to further strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

In his speech at the March 2016 AIPAC Policy Conference, President-Elect Trump made clear his commitment on issues critical to the U.S.-Israel relationship:

- *On the importance of the relationship:*  
"We will send a clear signal that there is no daylight between America and our most reliable ally, the state of Israel."
- *On the importance of stopping Iran's regional aggression and holding Iran accountable to prevent the regime from attaining nuclear weapons:*  
"We must enforce the terms of the previous deal to hold Iran totally accountable...We will totally dismantle Iran's global terror network. Iran has seeded terror groups all over the world."
- *On efforts to impose a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the U.N. Security Council:*  
"An agreement imposed by the U.N. would be a total and complete disaster. The United States must oppose this resolution and use the power of our veto."

Despite their deep differences on a range of issues, both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates notably shared a common commitment to the U.S.-Israel alliance. Strong bipartisan support for the Jewish state is also reflected overwhelmingly in the incoming Congress. We look forward to working with the new Congress on key legislative initiatives to strengthen the relationship between our two democracies.

This election once again demonstrates that support for Israel transcends partisan differences. The shared values and common interests between the United States and Israel are great constants that endure.

### **Netanyahu Congratulates Trump on Election Win**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared in a Facebook video and published a statement Wednesday congratulating Donald Trump on winning the U.S. presidential election. Netanyahu expressed confidence in his country's ability to maintain a strong

relationship with the United States under a Trump presidency. In a statement congratulating the Republican candidate, Netanyahu said: "President-elect Trump is a true friend of the state of Israel, and I look forward to working with him to advance security, stability and peace in our region." He continued, "I am confident that President-elect Trump and I will continue to strengthen the unique alliance between our two countries and bring it to ever greater heights." According to [Ynet](#), President Reuven Rivlin also welcomed Trump's victory. Rivlin stated, "I would like to congratulate the president-elect, Donald Trump, his family, and the American people as a whole, who have once again proven to the entire world the meaning of being the greatest democracy in the world." "I hope together, Israelis and Americans can grow our innovation and cooperation, which are the fruits of liberty, and equality," Rivlin added. "God bless you, Mr. President."

## IRAN

### **Iran once again exceeds a nuclear deal limit: IAEA report**

Iran has exceeded a soft limit on sensitive material set under its nuclear deal with major powers, the U.N. atomic watchdog said on Wednesday, hours after Donald Trump—who has strongly criticized the agreement—won the U.S. presidential election. It is the second time Tehran has surpassed the 130 metric tonne threshold for heavy water, a material used as a moderator in reactors like Iran's unfinished one at Arak, since the deal was put in place in January. It had 130.1 tonnes of the material on Tuesday, the watchdog said. "On 2 November 2016, the director general expressed concerns related to Iran's stock of heavy water to the vice president of Iran and president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi," the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a confidential report seen by [Reuters](#). A U.S. State Department spokesman, speaking at a regular news briefing in Washington, confirmed Iran's intention to export the excess heavy water. "It's important to note that Iran made no effort to hide this, hide what it was doing from the IAEA," spokesman Mark Toner said.

## ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

### **Azerbaijan set to buy Iron Dome from Israel**

Israel is set to sell its Iron Dome missile defense system to regional ally Azerbaijan, reports in that country's media said Thursday. A battery of the interceptors is ready to be handed over to the Azerbaijan military, Azeri media said according to the Hebrew-language Walla news site. There was no indication of when they were to arrive. Israel's Iron Dome system has been used in recent years to intercept and destroy rockets launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip. It has proven highly effective in protecting civilian populations from the rocket threat. This would be the first sale of the sophisticated system outside of Israel. Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia have warred for years over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but ruled by Armenian separatists. Fighting between the two sides flared up earlier this year. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Muslim Azerbaijan is Israel's biggest oil supplier, a key recipient of Israeli arms, and a partner in a complicated three-way dance with Iran, which it neighbors.