



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2007

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AMERICA'S PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY TO HOLD ITS ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. *Pelosi, Congressional Leaders to Headline Conference*

WASHINGTON -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual Policy Conference is the most important event of the year for America's pro-Israel community. This year's AIPAC Policy Conference will be the largest ever, with more than 6,000 people participating and 5,500 going to Capitol Hill on the final day of the conference to lobby Congress in support of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Media must pre-register: Portions of the conference are open to the press, but media must pre-register to attend by emailing a credential request to JCannata@aipac.org. Media attending must check-in at press registration on-site and provide photo ID and officially issued local, state or federal press credentials.

Headlining this year's conference will be all four leaders of Congress -- Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and the Republican Leaders of both the House and Senate. Vice President Dick Cheney and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni will also address the conference. This will be Speaker Pelosi's first major address on Middle East policy since taking over the top spot in the House.

The Policy Conference events, scheduled for Sunday, March 11 to Tuesday, March 13, will include major speeches, panels and forums covering a wide range of issues concerning the U.S.-Israel relationship, Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, and the future of the Middle East.

"This is the single most important weekend of the year for the pro-Israel community," said AIPAC President Howard Friedman. "At a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity in the Middle East, this is our opportunity to come to Washington and join with other Americans who share our passion for the U.S.-Israel relationship to ensure that our voices are heard in Congress."

On the final day of the conference, thousands of AIPAC delegates will participate in over 500 meetings with members of the House and Senate, focusing on strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship and American policy in the Middle East.

Consistently ranked as the most influential foreign policy lobbying organization on Capitol Hill, AIPAC is an American membership organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. For more than 50 years, AIPAC has been working with Congress to build a strong, vibrant relationship between the U.S. and Israel. With more than 100,000 members across the United States, AIPAC works throughout the country to improve and strengthen that relationship by supporting U.S.-Israel military, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.

In addition to the four top Democrat and Republican Congressional leaders -- House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH), the Vice President, and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni, other conference speakers include: House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Foreign Affairs

Committee Chairman Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (via satellite), Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz, Israeli Opposition Leader and Likud Party Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Sallai Meridor, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Dan Gillerman, and many others of note.

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FULL MEDIA SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007

OPENING LUNCHEON PLENARY

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

“Global Impact: Understanding Today's Middle East

Special Address:

Mr. Howard Friedman

President, AIPAC

Panelists:

Ambassador Marc Ginsberg

Former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco

Dr. Robert Satloff

Executive Director, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

The Honorable Ephraim Sneh

Deputy Defense Minister, Israel

Mr. R. James Woolsey

Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Moderator:

Mr. Dan Senior

Former Spokesman, Iraq Coalition Provisional Authority

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

(The following occur simultaneously in various rooms. Please choose one.)

Panel Discussion – “Knesset Conversation: Leading Voices From Israel's Parliament”

The Honorable Yoel Hasson

Member of Knesset, Kadima

The Honorable Gideon Sa'ar

Member of Knesset and Parliamentary Group Chairman, Likud

The Honorable Matan Vilnai

Member of Knesset, Labor

Mr. Tom Sawicki

Director of Programming, Jerusalem Office, AIPAC

Panel Discussion – “Standing Together: Support for Israel in the African-American Community

The Honorable Bakari Sellers

State Representative, South Carolina

Mr. André Williams

City Councilman, Miami Gardens, FL

The Honorable Albert Wynn (D-MD)

Member, Congressional Black Caucus, United States House of Representatives

Mr. Jeff Mendelsohn

National Outreach Director, AIPAC

Policy Briefing – “Battle Over Beirut: What the Struggle in Lebanon Means for the Future of the Middle East”

Dr. Walid Phares

Senior Fellow, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies

Mr. David Schenker

Senior Fellow in Arab Politics, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Policy Briefing – “Danger in Damascus: Where is Assad Leading Syria?”

The Honorable Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, United States House of Representatives

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Amos Gilad

Director of Policy and Political Military Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Israel

Policy Briefing – “How Israel Makes Its Case to the World” (Ballroom A)

Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin

Foreign Press and Public Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, Israel

Mr. David Horowitz

Editor-in-Chief, The Jerusalem Post

Policy Briefing – “Radioactive Revolution: What a Nuclear Iran Would Mean for the World”

Dr. Patrick Clawson

Deputy Director for Research, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Dr. Marvin Feuer

Director of Policy and Government Affairs, AIPAC

Policy Briefing – “Sunni, Shia and Radical Islam's War Against the West”

Dr. David Cook

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University

Dr. Shai Feldman

Director, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University

Policy Briefing – “Tentacles of Terror: The Global Reach of the Terrorist Network”

Mr. Daniel Benjamin

Director, Center on the United States and Europe; Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies, The Brookings Institute

Mr. Peter Bergen

Author, "The Osama bin Laden I Know: An Oral History of al-Qaeda's Leader"

Town Hall Meeting – “How Is Israel Preparing to Counter Strategic Threats?”

Ambassador Dore Gold

President, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Michael Herzog

Chief of Staff, Ministry of Defense, Israel

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

(The following occur simultaneously in various rooms. Please choose one.)

Panel Discussion – “Key Constituency: The Emerging Role of Hispanics in the Pro-Israel Movement”

Mr. Armando Guzman

Washington Bureau Chief, TV Azteca and Azteca America

Mr. Juan Rangel

CEO, United Neighborhood Organization

The Honorable Linda Sanchez (D-CA)

Member, Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Cochair, Democratic Israel Working Group, United States House of Representatives

Mr. Jeff Mendelsohn

National Outreach Director, AIPAC

Panel Discussion – “Securing the Homeland: How Israel and America are Working Together to Keep Us Safe”

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Rani Falk

Director General, Ministry of Public Security, Israel

The Honorable Jim Langevin (D-RI)

Chairman, Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, United States House of Representatives

Mr. David Cohen

Senior Attorney, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck

Panel Discussion – “The Road to the White House: How Presidential Candidates Formulate Foreign Policy”

Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat

Partner, Covington & Burling

Mr. Ken Mehlman

Former Chairman, Republican National Committee

Dr. Norman Ornstein

Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute

Policy Briefing – “Incubator of Innovation: How Israel Is Leading the High-Tech Business World”

Ms. Jenny Cohen-Derfler

Manager, INTEL Corporation, Israel

Mr. Avner Halperin

CEO and Co-Founder, EarlySense

Policy Briefing – “Power of the Purse: How Financial Sanctions Can Thwart Iran and Other State Sponsors of Terror”

Dr. Marvin Feuer

Director of Policy and Government Affairs, AIPAC

Dr. Matthew Levitt

Director, Stein Program on Terrorism, Intelligence and Policy, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

The Honorable Roger W. Robinson, Jr.

President and CEO, Conflict Securities Advisory Group, Inc.

The Honorable William C. Thompson, Jr.

Comptroller, City of New York

Policy Briefing – “Radioactive Revolution: Iran's Efforts to Build a Bomb and Dominate the Middle East”

The Honorable Gary Ackerman (D-NY)

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, United States House of Representatives

Mr. Ilan Berman

Vice President for Policy, American Foreign Policy Council

Mr. Brad Gordon

Director of Policy & Government Affairs, AIPAC

Policy Briefing – “Strategic Snapshot: Israel and the Military Balance in Today's Middle East”

Brig. Gen. Shmaya Avieli

Air Attaché, Embassy of Israel

Mr. Amos Harel

Military Correspondent, Ha'aretz

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas McInerney

Former Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Director of the Defense Performance Review

Policy Briefing - Tentacles of Terror: The Global Reach of the Terrorist Network

Mr. Peter Bergen

Author, "The Osama bin Laden I Know: An Oral History of al-Qaeda's Leader"

Ambassador Husain Haqqani

Director, Center for International Relations, Boston University

The Honorable Brad Sherman (D-CA)

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, United States House of Representatives

Policy Briefing – “Understanding Radical Islam and Its War Against the West”

Mr. Steven Emerson

Executive Director, The Investigative Project on Terrorism

Dr. Martin Kramer

Wexner-Fromer Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Senior Fellow, Shalem Center; Olin Institute Senior Fellow, Harvard University

Policy Briefing – “What Will it Take to Revive the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process?”

Mr. Gidi Grinstein

CEO and Founder, The Re'ut Institute

Dr. Aaron David Miller

Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center

Dr. Barry Rubin

Director, Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya; Visiting Scholar, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

DINNER PLENARY SESSION

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

“The United States and Israel: Tradition and Transcendence”

Featuring:

Pastor John Hagee

Founder and Senior Pastor, Cornerstone Church, San Antonio, TX

Dr. Michael Oren

Senior Fellow, Shalem Center

Honored Guest:

Mr. Eitan Wertheimer

President and CEO, Iscar, Ltd.

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

NOTE: DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 AM, FINAL MEDIA ACCESS BY 8:00 A.M.

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

“The United States and Israel: United We Stand”

Special Addresses:

The Honorable Dick Cheney

Vice President of the United States of America

The Honorable Tzipi Livni

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Israel

Featuring:

Mr. Howard Kohr

Executive Director, AIPAC

LUNCHEON PLENARY SESSION

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

(The following occur simultaneously, please choose one.)

“Capitol Connection: Congress’ Role in Strengthening the U.S.-Israel Relationship”

Special Address:

Ambassador Dan Gillerman

Ambassador to the United Nations, Israel

Panelists:

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

Member, Select Committee on Intelligence, United States Senate

The Honorable Norm Coleman (R-MN)

Member, Foreign Relations Committee, United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey (D-NY)

Chair, Appropriations State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs Committee, United States House of Representatives

Moderator:

Ms. Ester Kurz

Director of Legislative Policy and Strategy, AIPAC

“The Changing Face of Israel: Today’s Zionist Leaders”

Special Address:

The Honorable Tom Lantos (D-CA)

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, United States House of Representatives

Panelists:

Mr. Seth Altholtz

Chair, Israel Critical Capital Foundation, Project NIMRATZ

Professor Uzi Arad

Director, Institute for Policy and Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

Ms. Efrat Duvdevani

Director General, Vice Prime Minister's Office

Ms. Dalia Rabin

Chairman of the Board, The Yitzhak Rabin Center

Mr. Eliezer Ya'ari

Executive Director, New Israel Fund, Israel

Moderator:

Mr. David Horovitz

Editor-in-Chief, The Jerusalem Post

Campus Awards Luncheon – “Allies, Advocates and Activists”

NOTE: EVENT TAKES PLACE OFF SITE

Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H Street NW

AIPAC's annual recognition of top campus allies, exemplary pro-Israel advocates and the most accomplished AIPAC campus activists in the nation.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

(The following occur simultaneously in various rooms. Please choose one.)

Panel Discussion – “Faithful Allies: Building Ties with Christian Supporters of Israel”

Pastor Glenn Plummer

CEO, Fellowship of Israel and Black America (FIBA)

Reverend Sam Rodriguez

President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Reverend Robert Stearns

Founder and Executive Director, Eagles' Wings Ministries

Mr. Jeff Mendelsohn

National Outreach Director, AIPAC

Panel Discussion – “Politics.com: How Blogs are Changing Politics, Campaigns and Elections”

Mr. Paul Mirengoff

Author, Power Line Blog

Dr. Stuart Rothenberg

Founder and Publisher, The Rothenberg Political Report

Mr. Joe Trippi

Director, Trippi & Associates

Ms. Amy Walter

Senior Editor, The Cook Political Report

Panel Discussion – “Promising Partners: Israel's Deepening Ties to India and Turkey”

Ambassador Ronen Sen

Ambassador to the United States, Republic of India

Ambassador Nabi Sensoy

Ambassador to the United States, Republic of Turkey

Mr. Jeffrey Colman

Deputy Director of Policy and Government Affairs, AIPAC

Policy Briefing – “Capital Punishment: How Financial Sanctions Can Thwart Iran and Other State Sponsors of Terror”

Dr. Matthew Levitt

Director, Stein Program on Terrorism, Intelligence and Policy, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Ms. Leah Odinec

Assistant Director, Policy and Government Affairs, AIPAC

Mr. Steven Perles

Senior Attorney and Founder, Perles Law Firm

The Honorable Sarah Steelman

State Treasurer, Missouri

Policy Briefing – “Charting a Course: What Will It Take to Revive the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process?”

Mr. Gidi Grinstein

CEO and Founder, The Re'ut Institute

Mr. Avi Issacharoff

Middle East Correspondent, Ha'aretz

Dr. David Makovsky

Director, Project on the Middle East Peace Process, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Policy Briefing – “Israel and the World: The Appropriate Role for the International Community”

Mr. David Horowitz

Editor-in-Chief, The Jerusalem Post

Mr. Daniel Taub

Deputy Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel

Policy Briefing – “Russian Roulette: What Moscow's Emerging Foreign Policy Role Means for America”

Dr. Jonathan Adelman

Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver

Dr. Ariel Cohen

Senior Research Fellow, The Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, The Heritage Foundation

Policy Briefing – “Tough Neighborhood: Israel and the Balance of Power in Today's Middle East”

Dr. Shai Feldman

Director, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University

Maj. Gen. Dan Harel

Defense and Armed Forces Attaché, Embassy of Israel

Mr. Jeff Kuhnreich

Deputy Director of Policy and Government Affairs, AIPAC

AIPAC GALA BANQUET

7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

“Celebrating the U.S.-Israel Relationship”

Featuring:

The Honorable Harry Reid (D-NV)

Majority Leader, United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Republican Leader, United States Senate

Greetings:

Ambassador Sallai Meridor

Ambassador to the United States, Israel

Special Address (via satellite):

The Honorable Ehud Olmert*

Prime Minister, Israel

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

“Leadership Perspective: The U.S.-Israel Relationship”

Featuring:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Speaker, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Boehner (R-OH)

Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives