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AIPAC Welcomes Announcement of New MOU for Israel

AIPAC released the following statement on the Administration's announcement of increased aid to Israel

AIPAC welcomes the Administration's announcement this week of its intention to implement a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with Israel that with Congressional approval will provide the Jewish State with \$30b in security aid over the next 10 years. We look forward to working closely with Congress to safeguard Israel's qualitative military edge and help ensure support for the increase in American aid to Israel.

Israel must prepare today for military threats that are more dangerous than any it has faced during the past decade: the potential of a nuclear Iran, increasing rocket and missile fire into Israel by Hizballah and Hamas, Syria's military build-up, and increasing threats from Al Qaeda and Global Jihad.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is the keystone of America's policy in the Middle East, and our enduring partnership with our democratic ally Israel is one of our nation's key strategic assets.

The new MOU will culminate many months of discussion between the U.S. and Israel necessitated by the drawing to a close of Israel's current 10 year MOU, signed in 1998, and will mark a 25 percent increase over current levels.

This aid will be a vital component in helping Israel meet its military modernization needs and counter existing and future threats in a dynamic and increasingly challenging regional environment.

Security assistance to Israel sends a signal to Israel's adversaries that the U.S. commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge and deterrent capabilities is long-term and meaningful.

As the President said in a recent statement, "I am strongly committed to Israel's security and viability as a Jewish state, and to the maintenance of its qualitative military edge. During our meeting today, I told Prime Minister Olmert that I am committed to reaching a new ten-year agreement that will give Israel the increased assistance it requires to meet the new threats and challenges it faces."

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