

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 2, 2008

Contact: **Josh Block**  
[jblock@aipac.org](mailto:jblock@aipac.org)

## AMERICA'S PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY HOLDS ITS ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ***Presidential Candidates, Congressional Leaders to Headline Conference***

WASHINGTON -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee's (AIPAC) annual Policy Conference is the most important event of the year for America's mainstream pro-Israel community. This year's AIPAC Policy Conference will be the largest ever, with more than 7,000 people participating and some 5,000 going to Capitol Hill on the final day of the conference to lobby Congress in support of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Headlining the conference will be ALL three remaining Presidential candidates, ALL four leaders of Congress -- Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), AS WELL AS Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

The Policy Conference events, scheduled for Monday, June 2 to Wednesday, June 4, will include major speeches, panels and forums covering a wide range of issues concerning the U.S.-Israel relationship, America's support for Israel in her search for peace, Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and the future of the Middle East.

Other conference speakers include: House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA), Chief Deputy Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), Ambassador Dennis Ross, Dr. Michael B. Oren, Mr. Natan Sharansky, Israeli Opposition Leader and Likud Party Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai, former Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh and many others of note.

"This is the single most important gathering 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 time to come to Washington and join with so many other Americans who share our passion for the U.S.-Israel relationship and ensure that our voices are heard in Congress."

On the final day of the conference, more than 5,000 AIPAC delegates will participate in some 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.