

AIPAC

Policy Conference 2006 Morning Plenary: The Ties
That Bind: U.S. – Israel Alliance

Mr. John Boehner

Monday, March 6, 2006

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
1		[START TAPE 1 SIDE A]
2		MR. MARSHALL COOPER: Good morning. I
3		am Marshall Cooper and I'm an AIPAC
4		board member from Connecticut. If
5	00:36:34	you were to ask John Boehner's
6		colleagues to describe him in one
7		word, that word would be determined.
8		In 16 years in Congress he has
9		demonstrated this determination
10	00:36:46	through some of the toughest
11		legislative and political battles,
12		gaining the respect of both parties
13		in the process. This determination
14		has characterized his work in issues
15	00:36:57	important to the US pro-Israel
16		community. He has consistently
17		supported foreign aid to Israel as
18		well as legislation that aims to
19		block Iran's pursuit of nuclear
20	00:37:07	weapons. In his years as a lawmaker,
21		his door has always been open to us
22		and his commitment has always been
23		clear. As House Republican
24		Conference Chair in 1998, he led a
25	00:37:22	bi-partisan delegation to Israel,

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26		recruiting other members to go with
27		him to see first hand the dangers
28		Israel faces from terrorist groups
29		such as the one that now controls the
30	00:37:32	Palestinian authority. While in
31		Israel they toured Jerusalem, the
32		Golan Heights, met with the Israeli
33		Prime Minister and top security
34		officials. He understands what
35	00:37:43	Israel is up against and how
36		important it is for America to have
37		an ally like Israel in the world's
38		most unstable region. We are proud
39		to have him as our ally and our
40	00:37:54	friend. Ladies and gentlemen, please
41		join me in welcoming the new and very
42		determined majority leader of the
43		House of Representatives, John
44		Boehner.
45	00:38:24	MR. JOHN BOEHNER: [9 56 00 @ This is
46		a crowd. Let me just say thank you
47		for your warm welcome this morning.
48		I am the new majority leader and it's
49		really quite an honor to be chosen by
50		your

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51	00:38:35	colleagues. Quite an honor to be
52		chosen by your colleagues to be their
53		leader. And over the course of a
54		campaign that lasted 26 days, locked
55		in a small room with a phone attached
56	00:38:53	to my ear, it - you learn a lot about
57		your colleagues and what they're
58		interested in, but you should all
59		know that this was something I never
60		in my wildest dreams I ever thought I
61	00:39:04	would do. I have eleven brothers and
62		sisters. I grew up in Cincinnati,
63		Ohio. My dad owned a bar. And I got
64		involved in the private sector when I
65		was running the business, and along
66	00:39:15	the way got involved in my
67		neighborhood homeowner's association
68		and ended up in the United States
69		Congress. This too could happen to
70		you. But over the - the 25 years
71	00:39:27	I've been in elective office, it's
72		been a wonderful, wonderful
73		experience to offer public service to
74		my neighbors and friends. Earlier
75		this morning I take my usual walk,

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76	00:39:44	and it might be good for my legs, but
77		it's really good for my head. And
78		this morning I was thinking about the
79		people in the Jewish community in my
80		district who have worked with me on
81	00:39:55	issues that are of importance to all
82		of you over the last 22, 23 years.
83		And I was thinking about Manny
84		Garlikov [phonetic] and his wife Ros,
85		who are now in a nursing home in
86	00:40:05	Middletown Ohio, who during my years
87		in the state legislature, helped me
88		to begin to understand the importance
89		of these issues. And when I got to
90		the legislature I met a guy from
91	00:40:16	Cincinnati named Dick Wyland, and for
92		most of you from around Cincinnati
93		and elsewhere, Dick was very active
94		in the Jewish community and never
95		failed in his opportunity to press
96	00:40:29	your case. And over the last several
97		years, Steve Miller from Cincinnati
98		has kind of taken up the mantle to be
99		the guy to work with me and help me
100		to understand how important the fate

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101	00:40:40	of Israel is, not only to Jews around
102		the world, but to us here in the
103		United States. And then Howard Core
104		- thank you - Howard Core who's
105		worked for AIPAC for at least the
106	00:40:56	last ten or twelve years, someone who
107		I've worked with day in and day out
108		over the last at least, again, ten or
109		twelve years, someone who I think
110		does a great job on your behalf in
111	00:41:08	terms of his vigilance each and every
112		day on your behalf. Israel and the
113		United States have a unique
114		friendship based on our mutual
115		commitment to democracy, freedom and
116	00:41:23	peace. (not so good) And as the new
117		House majority leader, I can assure
118		you that under my leadership,
119		legislation that is in any way
120		perceived as anti-Israel will not be
121		considered in the House of
122	00:41:36	Representatives. Thank you. Thank
123		you very much. I think it's
124		important for all of you to
125		understand what this commitment

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
126		means. As Israel's friend, the
127	00:42:06	United States recognizes the delicate
128		nature of Israel's security situation
129		and its state of political affairs.
130		It is with this firm recognition that
131		we offer a durable and unyielding
132	00:42:20	alliance between our two great
133		nations. The rise of radical Islamic
134		fundamentalism in the Middle East has
135		dramatically increased the threat to
136		Israel's national security (not good)
137		and their
138	00:42:33	very existence. Israel faces an arc
139		of regional threats, including Iran's
140		irresponsible refusal to fully
141		cooperate with the international
142		community's concern with regard to
143	00:42:47	its nuclear weapons program and it's
144		unwillingness to end its state
145		sponsored terrorism around the world.
146		The election of Hamas in the
147		Palestinian parliamentary elections,
148	00:43:00	and the resurgence of Hezbollah,
149		operating in Syria and Lebanon, and
150		the most recent parliamentary wins by

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151		the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt. And
152		I think we need to take all of these
153	00:43:12	threats seriously. As the United
154		States learned on September 11 th ,
155		2001, a radical Islamic
156		fundamentalists mean what they say.
157		They have no respect for the lives of
158	00:43:25	people who do not agree with them.
159		The United States will welcome
160		democratic change in process, but we
161		will not be distracted from seeing
162		events on the ground as they really
163	00:43:39	are. The United States will work
164		with Israel and the international
165		community to find a solution to the
166		current showdown with Iran. Our
167		quarrel is not with the people of
168	00:43:55	Iran. It is with the government of
169		Iran. The United States will work
170		with our partners to mobilize and
171		support pro-democracy groups in Iran.
172		We should pressure critical points in
173	00:44:07	Iran's fragile economy to isolate the
174		government and provide momentum for a
175		regime change. We will not, however,

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176		allow political maneuvering to
177		distract or delay our response to
178	00:44:26	Iran's breach of its international
179		legal commitments regarding its
180		nuclear weapons program. The recent
181		Palestinian parliamentary elections
182		are also an issue that the
183	00:44:41	international community needs to
184		address. The United States will
185		respect their open and independent
186		democratic elections around the
187		world. However, we will not be blind
188	00:44:52	to the actions and decisions of
189		governments which do not respect
190		their international commitments and
191		their domestic obligations. And
192		until Hamas changes course,
193	00:45:03	dismantles its terrorist organization
194		and agrees to work for a peaceful
195		settlement with Israel, no taxpayer
196		funds should be provided to support
197		this Palestinian government. Thank
198	00:45:27	you. We should continue working with
199		Israel and the international
200		community to identify ways to provide

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201		financial support and technical
202		assistance to pro-democracy groups.
203	00:45:43	There are some tough issues that I
204		think we must tackle, and I'm happy
205		to work with all of you to try to
206		find those solutions. In 1998 I took
207		a group of members on a trip to
208	00:45:54	Israel, which had a huge impact on me
209		personally and on my awareness of the
210		threat that Israel faces. Whether
211		it was standing at the Wailing Wall
212		or going to the Temple on the Mount
213	00:46:08	or standing on the Golan Heights and
214		beginning to realize just how small
215		and how close many of these enemies
216		are, it was seen first hand for me
217		the real vulnerability that Israel
218	00:46:20	faces. In recent years it's been
219		fashionable in certain circles to
220		downplay the threats that Israel
221		faces, characterizing terrorists,
222		including Hamas as freedom fighters
223	00:46:34	as an example, or ignoring hateful
224		rhetoric and the fact that radical
225		Islamic terrorists actually act on

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226		their rhetoric, or the rise of anti-
227		Semitic rhetoric in general. We need
228	00:46:47	your continued passion and dedication
229		to fight these alarming trends and
230		raise awareness that Israel's
231		struggle is our struggle. We are
232		fighting the same hate and the same
233	00:47:05	violence all around the world. I am
234		committed to working with you to
235		bring stability, peace and prosperity
236		to Israel and the Middle East.
237		[2247@10:05:11] You have an
238		important role to play and I'm
239	00:47:19	here to ask you to continue to play
240		that role and to educate the members
241		of Congress that you work with.
242		Continuing on my walk this morning, I
243		began to think about the key issue in
244	00:47:33	the struggle for Israel over these
245		last almost 60 years. And it really
246		boils down to just one word. And
247		that word is vigilance. Vigilance
248		isn't a sometime activity that we
249	00:47:46	must take part in. Vigilance, I've
250		begun to realize is something that we

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251		have to do on a daily basis. And
252		when you begin - when you begin to
253		think about what Israel faces,
254	00:48:02	especially in the current political
255		and geo-political dynamics that they
256		find themselves in, it's vigilance on
257		a daily basis that's necessary. And
258		I'm here to suggest to you that if we
259	00:48:13	do, in fact, provide that vigilance,
260		all of you in this room and myself
261		included, vigilance on a daily basis
262		is the key to a secure and peaceful
263		and prosperous Israel.
264		[2247@10:06:17] Thank you for
265	00:48:26	being here and keep up the fight.
266		[END OF TRANSCRIPT]