

AIPAC

National Summit 2006: Opening Plenary

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak

October 22, 2006

Tapes 1 & 2

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, 10/22/06

Line#	Timecode	Quote
1		[START TAPE 1]
2		MALE VOICE: Iran has a new President
3	02:18:51	who talks of wiping Israel off the
4		map.
5		MALE VOICE: Hamas, the militant
6		Islamic group that calls for the
7		destruction of Israel, has won the
8		Palestinian parliamentary elections
9		in a landslide.
10		FEMALE VOICE: Hezbollah missiles hit
11		an apartment building in Haifa,
12		causing it to collapse.
13	02:19:11	MALE VOICE: And this axis of terror
14		is not just a threat to Israel. It is
15		a global threat to the international
16		community.
17		MALE VOICE: Israel faces many
18		dangers, but she is not alone.
19		[Applause].
20		MALE VOICE: Israel and the United
21		States have never had more at stake
22		than we do today.
23	02:19:35	MRS. HILARY CLINTON: Our future is
24		intertwined with the future of Israel
25		and the Middle East.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
26		MALE VOICE: We will defeat terrorism
27		against America and we will stand
28	02:19:45	with Israel as she fights the same
29		enemy.
30		MALE VOICE: One organization has
31		worked to insure that whether
32		fighting terrorism or pursuing peace,
33		America and Israel stand together.
34		PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: The United
35		States and Israel have been steadfast
36		allies. AIPAC is one of the reasons
37		why. [Applause].
38	02:20:10	MALE VOICE: Today AIPAC is a
39		100,000-member, grass-roots movement
40		made up of Republicans and Democrats,
41		Jews and non-Jews, from all 50
42		states, and hundreds of college
43		campuses.
44		MALE VOICE: AIPAC is one of, if not
45		the most successful, advocacy group
46		in Washington.
47		MALE VOICE: I can't think of a
48	02:20:29	policy organization in the country as
49		well-organized or respected.
50		MALE VOICE: You have, I think, in

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
51		AIPAC, the best grass-roots
52		organization in America, bar none.
53	02:20:40	[Applause].
54		MALE VOICE: Despite our name, we are
55		not a political action committee. And
56		we do not rate or endorse candidates.
57		We do encourage our members to build
58		relationships with their elected
59		officials, and to become advocates
60		for strong U.S.-Israel ties.
61		FEMALE VOICE: Until I got involved
62		with AIPAC a few years ago I had
63	02:21:01	never been involved in politics. I
64		actually had never even met a
65		politician.
66		MALE VOICE: I had heard the word
67		lobbying; I had no idea what it
68		meant.
69		MALE VOICE: At meetings held by our
70		18 regional offices and at national
71		gatherings like the Annual Policy
72		Conference, our members learn how
73	02:21:18	their involvement can affect Israel's
74		and America's future.
75		FEMALE VOICE: The first time I had

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
76		lobbied a member of Congress was at
77		the AIPAC policy conference.
78	02:21:29	MALE VOICE: I was assigned to go and
79		meet with a senator, and that day is
80		the single most empowering day of my
81		adult life.
82		MALE VOICE: Our members help pass
83		hundreds of legislative initiatives
84		each year, providing Israel with
85		billions in crucial assistance,
86		cutting off financing to terrorist
87		groups, stopping Iran, opening up new
88	02:21:52	frontiers for U.S.-Israel
89		cooperation.
90		MALE VOICE: We help pass
91		legislation. When U.S. Congress signs
92		a resolution saying we support
93		Israel, that's amazing, and we really
94		do make it happen.
95		FEMALE VOICE: America's commitment
96		to the safety and security of the
97		State of Israel is unwavering.
98	02:22:10	MALE VOICE: Israel's struggle is our
99		struggle. [Applause].
100		FEMALE VOICE: This is my first visit

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
101		to Israel.
102		MALE VOICE: Well, this is my second
103	02:22:19	trip to Israel.
104		MALE VOICE: This is my eighth trip
105		to Israel.
106		MALE VOICE: Through our supporting
107		organization, the American-Israel
108		Education Foundation, hundreds of
109		elected officials, media
110		professionals and other opinion
111		makers have experienced first hand
112		the rich history and critical
113	02:22:37	challenges facing the Jewish state.
114		MALE VOICE: I could have served in
115		Congress for 20 or 30 years and never
116		gotten the experience that I got in
117		just the one week's intense study and
118		interaction with leaders.
119		FEMALE VOICE: I wish not only every
120		member of Congress could come here
121		and see this, but every American who
122		has any doubts as to the need for us
123	02:22:58	to support Israel and her struggle to
124		survive.
125		MALE VOICE: Today the U.S.-Israel

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
126		relationship is as strong as ever.
127		But what about the future?
128	02:23:08	MALE VOICE: The biggest hope I have
129		for AIPAC is that the United States
130		remains Israel's steadfast ally. And
131		in order for us to achieve that,
132		AIPAC is going to have to continue to
133		grow.
134		MALE VOICE: AIPAC is embarking on
135		the most extensive outreach effort in
136		its history to expand the breadth and
137		depth of the pro-Israel community. We
138	02:23:32	are reaching out to rabbis and
139		synagogue leaders to put pro-Israel
140		advocacy on the agenda of every
141		congregation. While our efforts start
142		with the Jewish community, they don't
143		end there.
144		MALE VOICE: I knew little about
145		Israel until last year when I came to
146		an AIPAC policy conference.
147		MALE VOICE: If the pro-Israel
148	02:23:50	community in this country is going to
149		sustain the continued American
150		support for Israel, we have to reach

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
151		out to the non-Jewish community.
152		MALE VOICE: We have also begun a
153	02:23:58	program to enlist this passion of
154		America's Hispanic, African American
155		and pro-Israel Christian leaders so
156		that working together we can
157		strengthen the U.S.-Israel
158		relationship. [Applause].
159		MALE VOICE: But what about
160		tomorrow's leaders?
161		FEMALE VOICE: We are part of a
162		movement. We represent more than
163	02:24:20	1,100 students at this conference
164		from over [applause] 350 high
165		schools, colleges and universities.
166		MALE VOICE: AIPAC student outreach
167		efforts include high-impact
168		conferences, a well-respected
169		Washington internship program, and a
170		wide array of on-campus activities.
171		MALE VOICE: Just a few years ago,
172		our campuses were the scene of
173	02:24:46	conflict and confrontation. Battles
174		are still being waged, but today we
175		are taking the initiative.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
176		FEMALE VOICE: I think what we're
177		doing on campuses is very unique. We
178	02:24:58	work with a lot of different groups,
179		college Democrats, college
180		Republicans, black student union,
181		Latino students. We don't just try to
182		appeal to the base. We're always
183		trying to show how Israel is an
184		American value.
185		MALE VOICE: I think that in the past
186		people thought the U.S.-Israel
187		relationship, it was just an issue
188	02:25:16	for Jews. I think that what our
189		generation will bring and what our
190		generation hopes to bring is that
191		it's an issue for everyone.
192		[Applause].
193		MALE VOICE: From Capitol Hill to the
194		campus commons, from the corridors of
195		the White House to America's places
196		of worship, wherever Israel's and
197		America's interests are at stake,
198		AIPAC is there.
199	02:25:45	MALE VOICE: AIPAC's continued
200		support is more important now than

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
201		ever before. I can't tell you how
202		important, how encouraging, how
203		inspiring the warmth the flows from
204	02:26:02	the United States of America is to
205		the State of Israel and to the
206		Israeli people.
207		PRESIDENT BUSH: In a dangerous new
208		century your work is more vital than
209		ever. By defending the freedom and
210		prosperity of Israel you're also
211		serving the cause of America.
212		[Applause].
213		MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
214	02:26:37	please welcome former AIPAC
215		President, Melvin Dow of Houston,
216		Texas. [Applause].
217		MR. MELVIN DOW: Friends, the video
218		we just saw is the story, the
219		accurate story of AIPAC. A story of
220		AIPAC members participating as
221		American citizens in the American
222		political process. It is the story
223		that the Houston Chronicle wrote
224	02:27:13	about so glowingly in yesterday's
225		editorial. It is the story that you

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
226		and I write through our actions
227		everyday. But before I continue I
228		would like to address a news story
229	02:27:27	that has appeared in the last couple
230		of days that purports to tell a
231		different story. That story is a
232		totally unfounded rumor that
233		Congresswoman Jane Harman obtained
234		AIPAC's agreement to support her
235		quest for the chairmanship of the
236		House Intelligence Committee if the
237		Democrats control the House,
238		allegedly in exchange for efforts by
239	02:27:56	Congresswoman Harman to have the
240		charges pending against two former
241		AIPAC staffers reduced. I want to
242		address that allegation right now in
243		plain, blunt words: the allegation is
244		totally false. First, AIPAC would
245		never make any such agreement
246		relating to a pending federal case or
247		a federal investigation or any other
248		federal matter. And the notion that
249	02:28:29	it would do so is totally absurd.
250		Second, Congressman Jane Harman and

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
251		Congressman Alcee Hastings, who is
252		the other candidate for the position,
253		are both strong leaders on issues of
254	02:28:44	importance to the pro-Israel
255		community and each [applause] would
256		be an exemplary leader for the House
257		Intelligence Committee. As many of
258		you know, I've been associated with
259		AIPAC for many, many years as part of
260		its leadership. And I am proud to
261		tell you from personal knowledge that
262		AIPAC maintains the highest level of
263		moral and ethical standards, and
264	02:29:11	above all, we follow the law.
265		[Applause].
266		More stories will no doubt appear,
267		but you're entitled to have
268		confidence in AIPAC's integrity. The
269		best response to all of this is for
270		us to move forward with our mission
271		and to do our work. And so without
272		further ado, let's get on with the
273		business of the summit. To do that, I
274	02:29:45	want to call on my fellow board
275		member and Summit co-chair Roger

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
276		Sofer of Houston, and National Summit
277		Honorary co-chair Howard Schultz of
278		Dallas. [Applause].
279	02:30:08	This weekend we gather here in
280		Houston, as you know, for AIPAC's
281		2006 National Summit, over 800
282		strong, representing 30 states from
283		all over this great country, and 150
284		students from every state in the
285		southwest region. [Applause]. We come
286		together to rededicate ourselves to
287		the task of strengthening ties
288		between the United States and Israel
289	02:30:43	at a time of major changes and major
290		challenges.
291		MR. ROGER SOFER: Here in the
292		southwest we mirror the American
293		Jewish community. Sephardic Jews,
294		German Jews from the 1850s, and a
295		flood of Russian Jews who came
296		through Galveston, Texas, a
297		significant port of entry in the
298		early 1900s, and spread out
299	02:31:04	throughout our region.
300		MR. HOWARD SCHULTZ: Today the Jewish

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
301		community in the southwest region is
302		actively engaged in our community,
303		our nation and our world with
304	02:31:15	multiple synagogues, active
305		federations, community centers,
306		schools and AIPAC chapters in active
307		participation in pro-Israel politics.
308		Tonight when we gather for the gala
309		dinner honoring Congress, we will be
310		joined by senators, members of
311		Congress and local officials. We are
312		pleased that several of our state
313		representatives and state senators
314	02:31:39	will be with us throughout the entire
315		Summit.
316		MR. DOW: Working closely with our
317		members of Congress, AIPAC activists
318		in the southwest understood early on
319		the importance of participation in
320		politics. When Israel needed
321		America's support in the wake of the
322		six-day war, it was Sam Wolfson and
323		Jake Feldman who organized AIPAC in
324	02:32:02	Dallas, along with Duke Rudman.
325		MR. SOFER: When AIPAC opened its

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326		first regional office in the
327		southwest in the early eighties names
328		like Goldstein, Rudy, Alexander,
329	02:32:13	Brownstein, Zinn, Spiro, Sternberg
330		and Dow soon became known not just
331		for their love of Israel, but for
332		their deep involvement in America's
333		pro-Israel lobby.
334		MR. DOW: In the 1980s when students
335		on American college campuses faced
336		some of the most virulent anti-Israel
337		activity, again, members of the
338		southwest Jewish community stepped
339	02:32:36	forward. Tulsa's Charles Schusterman
340		of blessed memory, came to the aid of
341		our students, volunteering to sponsor
342		campus workshops for AIPAC's college
343		activists. They sharpened their
344		advocacy skills and connected with
345		pro-Israel students from around the
346		nation. Charlie and other generous
347		leaders lent their early support to
348		the expansion and success of AIPAC's
349	02:33:01	leadership development program.
350		MR. SOFER: On and off campus the

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
351		work of America's pro-Israel lobby
352		grew. AIPAC established councils in
353		numerous communities. Houston,
354	02:33:12	Dallas, Austin, El Paso, Oklahoma
355		City, Tulsa, Denver, New Mexico,
356		Arkansas, Louisiana, and Nebraska.
357		MR. SCHULTZ: AIPAC activists
358		participated establishing the Texas-
359		Israel Exchange to support
360		agricultural research and to increase
361		trade and business relations between
362		Texas and Israel. Then, 19 other
363		states, including Oklahoma, followed
364	02:33:39	with similar agreements.
365		MR. DOW: This quick glimpse of the
366		history of Jewish activity in the
367		southwest region gives you background
368		information about our region. But we
369		are here not primarily to look at
370		past history; we are here to
371		understand and assess present events
372		and to open the plan for the future.
373		MR. SOFER: For that purpose we have
374	02:34:03	prepared a program with eminent
375		scholars and political speakers and

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
376		discussion leaders. You cannot look
377		at the schedule without being
378		tremendously impressed by the quality
379	02:34:14	and stature of the speakers.
380		MR. SCHULTZ: In addition, the
381		program will showcase the knowledge
382		and expertise of several members of
383		AIPAC's talented staff who will be
384		speaking or leading some of the
385		discussion groups.
386		MR. DOW: With a spirit of pride and
387		anticipation, it is the southwest
388		region's honor to host you, the pro-
389	02:34:35	Israel community's most dedicated
390		leaders from all across the nation as
391		we work together to learn, to
392		understand and to help write the next
393		chapter of the U.S.-Israel
394		relationship. Ladies and gentlemen,
395		welcome to the AIPAC 2006 National
396		Summit in Houston. [Applause].
397		MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
398		please welcome AIPAC president Howard
399	02:35:12	Friedman. [Applause].
400		MR. HOWARD FRIEDMAN: Good morning.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
401		Just a few months after September
402		11 th , as he addressed the AIPAC Policy
403		Conference, Ehud Barak had the
404	02:35:32	foresight to fully understand the
405		global impact of that day.
406		[Applause].
407		PRIME MINISTER EHUD BARAK: The
408		terror attack of 9/11, it changed the
409		world forever. The choice for all of
410		us, all around the world is not
411		simple, but very clear: to destroy
412		terror or be destroyed by it. And we
413		are determined to destroy it.
414	02:36:03	[Applause].
415		MR. FRIEDMAN: Prime Minister Barak's
416		words of wisdom should not have
417		surprised anyone. Throughout his
418		distinguished career, whether as an
419		undercover soldier on a commando raid
420		or as a high-ranking politician
421		serving his country, he has always
422		been one of Israel's most adept and
423		respected strategic thinkers. As the
424	02:36:38	most dedicated soldier in Israel's
425		history, as chief of staff of the

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
426		Israel military, and as a prime
427		minister, he fought the hard battles,
428		made the tough decisions, and
429	02:36:52	suffered the sleepless nights endured
430		by true leaders. While Mr. Barak does
431		not currently sit in the prime
432		minister's chair, he continues to
433		play a key role addressing issues
434		affecting the security of the State
435		of Israel. He is here to provide us
436		with his analysis of the strategic
437		threats in the Middle East today and
438		to address what can be done to insure
439	02:37:24	Israel's security well into the
440		future. Ladies and gentlemen, it is
441		my great honor to introduce to you
442		former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud
443		Barak. [Applause].
444		MR. BARAK: Thank you all. AIPAC
445		leaders, activists, donors, ladies
446		and gentlemen, good morning. I'm
447		really delighted to be here with all
448		of you in Houston, Texas, and will
449	02:38:37	wish all of you Shana Tova and many
450		more fruitful years of activity with

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
451		AIPAC. We are here exactly on time,
452		probably a few minutes earlier, which
453		reminds me that AIPAC is the only
454	02:38:56	Jewish organization to be [laughter]
455		to be capable of defying the old line
456		by Woody Allen, who once said they
457		spent a lifetime career trying to
458		come late to a Jewish event and could
459		never make it. [Laughter].
460		As you all well know, the last few
461		months were not easy for Israel.
462		However, I do not suggest we spend
463		the short time we have together
464	02:39:34	mainly on looking backward. There
465		are, of course, many lessons to be
466		drawn from the last events. In
467		regards to the IDF, in regard to our
468		homefront, in regard to our decision-
469		making processes, even may I say in
470		regard to the role of experience in
471		leadership. But, and we, of course,
472		have as usual an inquiry committee
473		that looks into things and hindsight
474	02:40:14	is always 20/20. Yet I believe this
475		is not the time and the place to

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
476		tackle those issues of the past, and
477		probably better to concentrate on the
478		future. [Applause].
479	02:40:37	Looking forward, the compelling good
480		news is that Israel had been and
481		still is the strongest nation state
482		1,000 miles around Jerusalem.
483		[Applause]. I met recently with an
484		Arab leader who told me Ehud, it's
485		not easy for me to say, but Arab
486		leaders are looking at Israel as
487		being the only regional counterweight
488		to the emergence of Iran. And it is
489	02:41:23	really true that in a world shaped by
490		the struggle against the triad of
491		nuclear proliferation, world terror
492		and rogue regimes, Israel very
493		naturally is a leading player at the
494		forums. And the quality of our
495		performance and the depths of our
496		cooperation with the world leader of
497		this struggle, the United States, the
498		combination of those will have a
499	02:41:57	crucial impact on the results.
500		Here, AIPAC has a unique role to

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
501		play. We are thankful to you all for
502		what you are doing. We are proud of
503		you and what you are capable of
504	02:42:24	accomplishing. I know that from time
505		to time it's not easy facing certain
506		friction and resistance. But the way
507		you bring together a life commitment
508		to back Israel and its government
509		under whatever happens, and the way
510		you keep simultaneously your
511		commitment and dedication to the
512		American values, American law and
513		American way of life is really
514	02:43:02	impressive for all of us, and we are
515		thankful for the continued stream of
516		bottom-line results that AIPAC is
517		providing us with. Thank you very
518		much. [Applause].
519		I see a ray of light even looking at
520		the darker background of what
521		happened in the last few months.
522		Israel showed an impressive capacity
523		for resilience. And in a way, we are
524	02:43:43	just a microcosm of what's happening
525		in the world as a whole. We are

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
526		direct into daily events that
527		sometimes lose the perspective. But
528		let me tell you if someone would have
529	02:43:57	told us six years ago that in a few
530		months the twin towers are going to
531		be destroyed by a terrorist attack,
532		that five years later the main
533		perpetrator of this, Osama Bin Laden
534		will still be free, that Afghanistan
535		will be invaded by Americans and now
536		insurgency is going higher, that Iraq
537		will be invaded and we see what
538		happens there right now, that the
539	02:44:28	price of oil will go to \$60-plus per
540		barrel. And still the normal life
541		will be sustained, and the Dow Jones
542		will go to all-time highs, over
543		12,000. And the [applause] stock
544		exchange in Tel-Aviv, you know, the
545		Dow Jones hardly doubled itself
546		within the last four or five years.
547		The Tel-Aviv stock exchange out of
548		all stock exchanges has almost
549	02:45:04	tripled itself [applause] and it
550		means that we are strong after all.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
551		[Applause]. The capacities to see a
552		ray of light, even in a dark
553		situation cannot solve neither Iraq
554	02:45:23	nor the Hezbollah or the Iranian
555		threat, but it can help us, keeping
556		always action oriented rather than
557		being drifted into paralysis and
558		dust, supporting the shortening of
559		the struggle, and it will bring
560		triumph closer to us. The clear
561		message for what we have seen
562		recently in Lebanon, and in a way
563		what you are seeing in Iraq, and what
564	02:45:58	is developing right now in North
565		Korea and probably the future in
566		Iran, is the end of illusions. The
567		age of illusions, and especially of
568		self-delusions is over. It's a little
569		bit pity because at least for Israel
570		we could have well into it six years
571		ago. After Camp David I tried to
572		convince my own left side of the
573		Israel political map that we cannot
574	02:46:32	find a partner in our fort, we better
575		turn into taking our fate, our

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
576		destiny in our hands. And I couldn't.
577		And clearly the right wing of Israel
578		was not ripe for this message. But I
579	02:46:46	believe that now it's the end of
580		illusions on the left side. The
581		belief or wishful thinking that an
582		angel will drop out of heaven hugging
583		and you believe this illusion is
584		over.
585		On the right side, the belief that we
586		can impose our will on another people
587		by the sheer use of force or that
588		there is any chance of kind of
589	02:47:22	fulfilling Zionism and its vision
590		within a territory which basically
591		holds two peoples and end up being
592		bi-national rather than a Jewish
593		democratic state. All these illusions
594		are over. To an extent, even the
595		illusion in the center part of
596		politics, that by making one step in
597		the right direction, unilaterally,
598		but in an incoherent and fractured
599	02:47:58	manner, and that that will encourage
600		somehow the better elements on the

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
601		other side to raise their voices,
602		even this illusion is over.
603		Everyone now in Israel can see—in
604	02:48:11	fact, to be more accurate, almost
605		everyone, that it is only strong and
606		self-confident Israel with a clear
607		Jewish identity both within borders
608		that within which we'll have a solid
609		Jewish majority for generations to
610		come, that this is the only way to
611		move forward. It is [applause] clear
612		now to almost everyone that that
613		Middle East is a tough neighborhood.
614	02:48:52	It's not the Midwest. We would love
615		to have the Canadians as our
616		neighbors, but you got them.
617		[Laughter]. And we are living—once
618		when I was still new for compared
619		Israel to a villa in the jungle. You
620		should be open-eyed. That's a
621		neighborhood where there is no mercy
622		for the weak and no second
623		opportunity for those who cannot
624	02:49:21	protect themselves. And it becomes
625		more and more clear right now that

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
626		political or peace agreements with
627		our other neighbors if and when they
628		will come, will be achieved only with
629	02:49:40	an Israel acting out of strength and
630		out of self-confidence. And
631		[applause] as such, agreements should
632		be based upon the painfully acquired
633		awareness on the Arab side that no
634		amount of use of force and no
635		diplomatic trick, but only a fair
636		agreement will be signed out by
637		Israel. And they should acquire the
638		understanding or should realize, our
639	02:50:27	neighbors, that Israel is well-aware
640		of its vital interests and will never
641		betray them. On the other hand, it
642		should be clear that Israel should
643		not define its vital interests in an
644		overreaching way that goes wherever
645		something is lying or moving, but
646		define it in a clever way that will
647		really serve our destiny and future.
648		I believe that our strength is based—
649	02:51:03	overall strength is based on four
650		pillars. The military might of the

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
651		Israeli defense forces, a robust
652		economy, a cohesive society, the deep
653		coordination with the United States,
654	02:51:26	and the overarching asset, our real
655		secret weapon—Jewish solidarity. I
656		think that any of these elements, any
657		of these pillars have certain
658		corrects on it and should be treated
659		seriously in order to be fortified
660		for the future. And none of these is
661		easy, but all of them are achievable
662		if we join hands and work seriously
663		to accomplish it.
664	02:52:06	Israel should be ready, both for
665		profound reasons and for tactical
666		diplomatic reasons, to be able to
667		stretch its arm to try to see whether
668		peace is achievable and whether there
669		is an opening for agreement. But
670		always should do it with open eyes,
671		never self-deluding ourselves. We
672		want to have a peace of the brave. We
673		will never have a peace of the
674	02:52:41	ostriches. And Israel will never,
675		ever yield to terror, period.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
676		[Applause]. The Palestinian soldier
677		under the Hamas government, to the
678		best of my judgment, is not a partner
679	02:53:07	for peace negotiations with Israel.
680		They are aiming not into correcting
681		of occupation of '67, but into
682		correcting the very existence of a
683		Jewish democratic side by side with a
684		Palestinian entity, namely '47.
685		Abu Mazen is too weak. He lost his
686		real opportunity the first only 100
687		days of his government. And it is
688		clear that for, once again, for
689	02:53:41	tactical reasons and for in order to
690		keep occupying the moral high ground
691		in the world, we should be able to
692		meet with him and try to see whether
693		the road map could be brought back to
694		life. But in my judgment, the road
695		map is in the intensive care unit
696		from day one of its birth.
697		I don't think that we'll ever go back
698		to fully occupy and settle the Gaza
699	02:54:13	Strip, and I guess we'll have to work
700		harder to find operational solutions.

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
701		And besides it, we should make sure
702		that the daily life of ordinary
703		Palestinians is eased to the extent
704	02:54:28	that our security considerations
705		allow it.
706		In regard to Lebanon, we have a lot
707		of lessons to be drawn from the
708		operational military size as well as
709		the homefront. But in my judgment,
710		most of the dominant lesson is that
711		Israel should come back to basics, to
712		the very security philosophy that war
713		with us all along the way since Ben
714	02:54:56	Gurion, namely, that the conflict is
715		asymmetric in nature. We have to win
716		each and every battle. The Arabs—for
717		them it's enough to win one major
718		battle and put an end to Israel. So
719		we do not have any interest in having
720		more wars just for the fun of having
721		wars. War, I can tell you, is not a
722		picnic, and never been. But we have
723		an interest of delaying them. But
724	02:55:24	once a war is really imposed upon us
725		we should make sure that it will be

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
726		decided with overwhelming force on
727		the other side to victory in a
728		decisive and quick manner.
729	02:55:40	[Applause].
730		[END TAPE 1]
731		[START TAPE 2]
732		PRIME MINISTER BARAK: -Syria. With
733		Syria, the situation is very
734		delicate. The--somehow, the way that
735		the Syrians are reading the
736		"achievements," of the Hezbollah
737		bring some dangerous ideas into the
738		mind. We should make sure that they
739		won't be able to
740	02:56:24	materialize it. At the same time we
741		cannot ignore the fact that in spite
742		of all the diplomatic gestures,
743		Bashar Assad, young Assad remained a
744		proxy of Iran in this Shiite banana
745		that they are trying to create from
746		Tehran through Baghdad, to Damascus
747		to the south end of part of Lebanon.
748		And for us, it should be
749		preconditions that he will dismantle
750	02:56:56	terrorist headquarters that are

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
751		operating in daylight in Damascus.
752		His continued involvement in the
753		Lebanese politics and his support,
754		logistical and otherwise, to the
755	02:57:09	Hezbollah. If they were really
756		serious they would have done it.
757		'Cause they have a lot to lose by
758		joining the wrong side in the long-
759		term. But I'm not sure that they are
760		aware in any way I would tell you
761		that any successful diplomatic
762		contact between an Arab country and
763		Israeli had always been initiated far
764		from the public eye. If the Syrians
765	02:57:39	were serious about trying to find a
766		way to resume negotiations they would
767		have found the other channel-
768		confidential one-far from the public
769		eye.
770		I do not want to mention Iraq a lot.
771		You might hear about it from others
772		later on, but just to tell you that I
773		still believe that history will judge
774		President Bush much more positively
775	02:58:15	than the present headlines in regards

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
776		to his decision to go there
777		[applause].
778		A few words about Iran: I've noticed
779		that you have a series of discussions
780		here about this issue. I will make
781	02:58:41	only a few comments. It is really a
782		major threat to the stability of the
783		whole world. I cannot see a real
784		world order stabilized with a nuclear
785		active Messianic kind of Iran. I
786		shared this view with any other
787		leader I met in the region from
788		several Arab leaders to Putin in
789		Russia to Prime Minister Singh in
790		India and others. They are all
791		neighbors, in a way, of Iran's,
792	02:59:15	even some Pakistani friends of mine.
793		And I think that the time is running
794		out. The Iranians are determined to
795		defy the whole world. In a way, they
796		envy Kim Jong-il in North Korea, who
797		was tough enough—he can hardly feed
798		his people with potatoes or vodka—I
799		don't know whether they drink—but
800		once he announced publicly that he is

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
801		nuclear, the whole world is courting
802	02:59:47	him, and against all kind of
803		announcements, statements in advance.
804		It's not yet clear to what extent the
805		world community will be capable of
806		joining hands and moving to put him
807	03:00:01	at bay and block his nuclear
808		presence. And it basically bodes ill
809		for what happens in Iran. At this
810		stage we should support an arena and
811		the actions towards sanctions and any
812		other means. But we should bear in
813		mind that for Israel, unlike the rest
814		of the world, and in spite of the
815		fact that we do not want to be as of
816		now at the cutting edge of this
817	03:00:40	effort, for Israel the Iranian threat
818		is really existential in nature. And
819		we should be able to deploy, to face
820		this challenge on all its aspects.
821		And I believe that in this regard as
822		well, at this stage at least, the
823		coordination and cooperation with the
824		United States and capacity to talk
825		frankly, sometimes bluntly about it

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
826		with the Russians, with the Chinese,
827		with
828	03:01:18	other neighbors is very important.
829		But we should be focused, calculated,
830		determined, talk a little bit less,
831		do a little bit more, and be always
832		determined to find whatever way not
833	03:01:42	to let it happen and materialize.
834		[Applause]. For obvious reasons I
835		would not want to make any further
836		remarks about this issue.
837		Last remarks: in the short-term I
838		cannot promise you any kind of rose
839		garden. The Middle East is a tough
840		place, and we entered into a tough
841		period. We have a joke in Hebrew we
842		are saying that a pessimist in the
843	03:02:24	Middle East is an optimist with
844		experience. [Laughter]. But in the
845		long-term, I'm confident that we will
846		prevail. When you look at the history
847		of Israel in a wider kind of scope-
848		you open the zoom-you'll see that
849		just less than 60 years ago the
850		crematorium was still working in

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
851		Europe. In '48, less than three years
852		after the end of the war, the State
853	03:03:01	of Israel had been established and
854		immediately were attacked by
855		neighbors, all neighbors, hardly
856		survived. And now look at our
857		development from along the decades.
858	03:03:16	In '58, we were after the Sinai
859		crisis where we proved our capacity
860		to deal at least with part of a major
861		Arab army and defeat it. In '68,
862		after the Six Days War where we
863		proved to the rest of the region we
864		can defeat the whole three armies
865		simultaneously. Then in '78 after the
866		Yom Kippur War, we were already in
867		peace agreement with Egypt. Ten years
868	03:03:53	later, '88, another Intifada, another
869		peace, and you know, '98, another
870		peace with Jordan, failed attempt to
871		settle the issues with the
872		Palestinians and the Syrians and they
873		assert the Intifada. But there is a
874		growing—and now we have the—it's
875		almost clear that the Arab world is

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
876		trying to change the equation. All
877		along those years, we were decide
878		[sic] who was ready to make
879	03:04:30	peace and they wanted to throw us
880		into the sea. Now at least our
881		immediate neighbors changed the tone
882		of the talk. They are talking from
883		Saudi Arabia to other places about
884	03:04:45	accepting a peaceful solution. I
885		don't really believe that they really
886		mean what they say, but we might have
887		to look into at a certain point, I
888		mean, the Saudi plan. But the very
889		change of the tone means that they
890		are gradually adopting the
891		realization that Israel is here to be
892		forever. And I think that when we
893		look [applause] at it—I was a five-
894	03:05:18	year-old kid during the War of
895		Independence and lost half of my
896		family in Treblinka. And I can tell
897		you that looking on these decades I
898		see, out of all this ups and downs
899		and might see in other phenomena as
900		well up, you'll see a clear trend and

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Line#	Timecode	Quote
901		the trend is clearly toward a stable
902		and strong Israel that will
903		ultimately be accepted by its
904	03:05:48	neighbor. And it is here once again
905		that I want to conclude with thanking
906		each and every one of you and AIPAC
907		as a collective for what you are
908		doing daily in the Senate, in the
909	03:06:05	Congress, in all counties, states of
910		this great country, what you are
911		doing for Israel, what you are doing
912		for the Jewish community and your
913		contribution to future relationships
914		between us and other communities in
915		the American mosaic. You are making
916		Israel stronger. And as a Jew, as an
917		Israeli citizen, as a former Defense
918		and Prime Minister, I want to say or
919		tell you all Kol HaKavod [music]
920		[applause].
921		Thank you. Thank you once again.
922		[END SPEECH]