

AIPAC

**National Summit 2006: Monday Breakfast
Plenary**

Senator John McCain

October 23, 2006

Tape #1

Line#	Timecode	Quote
1		[START TAPE 1]
2		[Music]
3	0:01:43	ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen
4		please welcome Rabbi Steven Pierce
5		from Congregation Emmanuel of San
6		Francisco, California.
7		[Applause]
8		[Music]
9		RABBI STEVEN PIERCE: Good morning.
10		For those of you who have already
11		begun eating, this is a retroactive
12		motzi. As we break bread together,
13	0:02:15	we are mindful of the brokenness in
14		this world and our responsibility to
15		uplift the fallen and to heal those
16		who suffer misfortune and injustice.
17		As together we say [HEBREW]. Praised
18		are you, oh Lord, our God ruler of
19		the universe who brings forth bread
20		from the earth. Amen. [HEBREW].
21		Thank you.
22		[Music]
23	0:02:48	ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen
24		please enjoy your breakfast. Our
25		program will begin shortly.

Line#	Timecode	Quote
26		[Music]
27		ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen
28	0:20:58	please welcome AIPAC National Summit,
29		Honorary Chair Joan Alexander of
30		Houston Texas.
31		[Applause]
32		MS. JOAN ALEXANDER: Good morning.
33		Our next speaker is a man with great
34		vision who understood early on in the
35		war on terrorism that America and
36		Israel were fighting the same battle.
37	0:21:27	[Applause]
38		SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN: Today in the
39		war against terror, we have no
40		stronger ally than Israel. We will
41		defeat terrorism against America and
42		we will stand with Israel as she
43		fight the same enemy.
44		MS. ALEXANDER: Four years after
45		Senator John McCain spoke those words
46		at an AIPAC Policy Conference, he is
47	0:21:49	still among the most vigorous
48		defenders of both America and
49		Israel's right to protect their
50		citizens against terrorism.

Line#	Timecode	Quote
51		In the early days of the war with
52	0:22:00	Hezbollah this summer and in the 34
53		days that ensued we heard from
54		Senator McCain on a regular basis as
55		he highlighted and explained the
56		connection between Iran, Syria, and
57		Hezbollah. Last winter when Hamas
58		gained power in the Palestinian
59		elections, he was among the first to
60		state emphatically that Hamas would
61		not receive U.S. funding until it
62	0:22:25	recognized Israel and renounced all
63		terrorism. And Senator McCain was
64		again one of the first and has been
65		among the most consistent leaders in
66		advocating strong sanctions against
67		the greatest threat Israel faces
68		today - Iran and the pursuit of
69		nuclear arms. In fact, he was one of
70		the first authors of early
71		legislation to sanction companies and
72		countries that
73	0:22:54	were contributing to Iran's pursuit
74		of nuclear weapons. As Iran's
75		radical leaders have grown even more

Line#	Timecode	Quote
76		abrasive with their vows to wipe
77		Israel off the map, Senator McCain
78	0:23:07	has stepped up his warnings that Iran
79		is not the kind of country we can
80		allow to develop the world's most
81		dangerous weapons. In the final
82		analysis, Senator McCain believes
83		that America and Israel face the same
84		enemies because they share the same
85		values. As he wrote three years ago,
86		in standing by Israel we are merely
87		being true to ourselves. If we ever
88	0:23:34	turned our backs on Israel we would
89		be abandoning the principles that
90		built our nation. In addition to
91		being a strong friend of the U.S.-
92		Israel relationship, Senator McCain
93		is a strong friend of AIPAC's and
94		mine. We are especially gratified
95		that he would be with us today just a
96		short time after the recent passing
97		of his mother-in-law. We offer our
98		deepest
99	0:24:00	sympathies to the Senator and his
100		family at this time. Ladies and

Line#	Timecode	Quote
101		gentlemen, please welcome a man who
102		has fought passionately for the
103		rights of free people to live in
104	0:24:12	peace from Haifa to Houston: Senator
105		John McCain.
106		[Music]
107		[Applause]
108		SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN: Thank you Joan.
109		Thank you. Thank you very much.
110		Thank you Joan, thank you for those
111		kind words, and thank you for that
112		nice introduction. It is far nicer
113		than the one I received at the
114	0:24:47	Scottsdale Rotary Club last week
115		where the guy said here is the latest
116		dope from Washington Senator John
117		McCain so thank you for that.
118		[Laughter]. I was over in California
119		recently doing a fundraiser for
120		Governor Schwarzenegger, and I have
121		many similar attributes, and so he
122		came along and there's great big
123		protestors standing there and
124	0:25:17	as I walked by the guy said, hey
125		anybody ever tell you you look a lot

Line#	Timecode	Quote
126		like Senator John McCain?
127		I said, yeah. He said, does not it
128		just make you mad as hell? So - Joan
129	0:25:36	thank you for yours and thank you for
130		your - you know, there has been some
131		talk about me, and the Presidency of
132		the United States. I would like to
133		ask - I would like to begin
134		[Applause] I would like to begin by
135		asking your sympathy for the families
136		of the State of Arizona because Barry
137		Goldwater from Arizona ran for
138		President of the United States.
139	0:26:04	Marsh Udall from Arizona ran for
140		President of the United States.
141		Bruce Babbitt from Arizona ran for
142		President of United States. I from
143		Arizona ran for President of the
144		United States. Arizona may be the
145		only state in America where mothers
146		don't tell their children some day
147		they can grow up and be President of
148		the United States.
149	0:26:23	[Laughter; applause]. You might
150		remember in the last campaign there

Line#	Timecode	Quote
151		was some conversation about me being
152		Vice President of the United States -
153		wasn't clear which party - but their
154		conversation,
155	0:26:40	you know. [Laughter]. I was on the
156		Jay Leno show and Jay Leno said, well
157		Senator what is this about you being
158		Vice President? I said, you know Jay
159		I spent all those years in the North
160		Vietnamese Prison Camp kept in the
161		dark, fed scraps. Why the hell would
162		I want to do that all over again so,
163		you know? So I thank you for your -
164		[applause]. I am very happy to be
165	0:27:1	with you, and it is always a pleasure
166		to speak before this magnificent and
167		wonderful and very important
168		organization. It is one of the
169		organizations with which if it did
170		not already exist would need to be
171		created. Just as America is deeply
172		fortunate to have a close friend in
173		Israel, Israel is privileged to have
174		a supporter in AIPAC. Make no
175	0:27:34	mistake, Israel needs our support

Line#	Timecode	Quote
176		today. Times are difficult. The
177		Jewish State has experienced tough
178		times before. Indeed, they have
179		perhaps been the norm rather than the
180	0:27:47	exception. When one thinks back over
181		the conflicts 1948, the Six Day War,
182		Yom Kippur, Lebanon and the First
183		Gulf War, two Intifadas and Lebanon
184		again, it is clear that Israel has
185		been tested more in less time than
186		any nation on earth. Survival in the
187		face of such trials would be
188		impressive. Flourishing would seem
189		out of the question. Yet
190	0:28:12	Israel has thrived. There is no
191		doubt that due to its fierce fidelity
192		to its ideals that it has so
193		successfully defended its
194		achievements. I'd like to believe
195		that Israel's success has been aided
196		by America, another country born of
197		deals and Israel's natural partner
198		and ally. The tests continue today,
199		however, in the form of suicide
200	0:28:36	bombers and rocket fire in the anti-

Line#	Timecode	Quote
201		Semitism is so pervasive in the Arab
202		press and in the existential threat
203		issued routinely by the Iranian
204		President. But Israel will survive
205	0:28:52	just as it has survived in the face
206		of armies and terrorists, just as it
207		has prospered in the most dangerous
208		neighborhood on earth so will it
209		succeed in the face of today's
210		threats. There will always, always
211		be an Israel. [Applause]. The path
212		of future success for Israel will not
213		be an easy one, and there will be a
214		number of difficult issues. Foremost
215	0:29:26	on many minds is, of course, Iran.
216		The world's chief state sponsor of
217		international terrorism, the Iranian
218		regime defines itself by hostility to
219		Israel and the United States. It is
220		simply tragic that Millennia proud
221		Persian history have culminated in a
222		government today that cannot be
223		counted among those of the world
224		civilized nations. When the
225	0:29:51	President of Iran calls for Israel to

Line#	Timecode	Quote
226		be wiped off of the map or asked for
227		a world without Zionists or suggests
228		that Israel's Jewish population
229		return to Europe, or calls the
230		Holocaust a
231	0:30:04	myth, we are dealing with a possibly
232		deranged and surely dangerous regime.
233		The leadership in Tehran does more
234		than issue ugly pronouncement. It
235		acts in ways that directly affect the
236		security of Israel, the United States
237		and our friends. A sponsor of both
238		Hamas and Hezbollah, Iran has
239		repeatedly used violence to undermine
240		Israel in the Middle East peace
241	0:30:29	process. It supports militias that
242		have launched anti-coalition attacks
243		in Iraq and has sponsored at least
244		one direct attack against the United
245		States outside of Iraq. Tehran's
246		continued pursuit of nuclear weapons
247		clearly poses in an unacceptable
248		risk. Protected by a nuclear
249		deterrent, Iran would feel
250		unconstrained to sponsor terrorist

Line#	Timecode	Quote
251	0:30:53	attacks against any perceived enemy.
252		Its flouting of the Nuclear
253		Nonproliferation Treaty would render
254		that regime obsolete and would induce
255		Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and
256	0:31:05	others to reassess their defense
257		posture and arsenals. The world
258		would live indefinitely with the
259		possibility that Tehran might pass
260		nuclear materials or weapons to one
261		of its allied terrorists networks.
262		And coupled with its ballistic
263		missile arsenal, an Iranian nuclear
264		bomb would pose an existential threat
265		to the State of Israel. In facing
266	0:31:31	down this problem European
267		negotiators have outlined a positive
268		end game for Tehran should it abandon
269		its nuclear ambitions, far reaching
270		economic incentives, external support
271		for civilian nuclear energy program,
272		and integration into the
273		international community, but Terran
274		has said no. It insists on
275		maintaining and even accelerating its

Line#	Timecode	Quote
276	0:31:55	pursuit of nuclear weapon. Iran's
277		choice is clear so must be ours.
278		[Applause]. Immediate UN Security
279		Council action is required to impose
280		multi-lateral political and economic
281	0:32:16	sanctions. The Congress needs to
282		pass before it adjourns this year the
283		Iran Freedom Support Act. And every
284		option must remain on the table. I
285		repeat every option must remain on
286		the table. [Applause]. Military
287		action isn't our preference. It
288		isn't our preference. It remains as
289		it always must the last option, the
290		last option. We have a long way to
291	0:32:45	go diplomatically before we need to
292		contemplate other measures. But it
293		is a simple observation of reality
294		that there is only one thing worse
295		than a military solution and that my
296		friends is a nuclear armed Iran.
297		[Applause]. The regime must
298		understand that it cannot win a
299		showdown with the world. It is in
300		the interest of Russia and China to

Line#	Timecode	Quote
301	0:33:17	join in this effort notwithstanding
302		their business interests. Surely,
303		they do not wish to see a nuclear
304		arms race in the Middle East and into
305		the MPT in a more malicious Iranian
306	0:33:26	foreign policy in Iraq and elsewhere.
307		These two countries should know that
308		the United States will treat as a
309		defining issue in our bilateral
310		relations, but should Russia and
311		China decline to join our peaceful
312		efforts to resolve the nuclear issue,
313		we should seek willing partners to
314		impose multi-lateral sanctions
315		outside the UN framework. The
316	0:33:53	countries of Europe with their close
317		economic ties to Iran and diplomatic
318		leadership on the nuclear issue will
319		have a special responsibility in this
320		regard. We Americans also need to
321		reassure the reformers and the
322		millions of Iranians who aspire to
323		self-determination that we support
324		their longing for freedom and
325		democracy. The talented and educated

Line#	Timecode	Quote
326	0:34:17	Iranian people are stifled by a
327		corrupt and repressive elite. Hungry
328		for reform and an end to their
329		countries international isolation,
330		they have voted for change time and
331	0:34:30	again only to discover that their
332		votes count for little with the
333		ruling elite. The mullahs provide
334		neither the jobs nor the freedom, nor
335		the basic human rights that their
336		people want so badly. The regime
337		cynically uses the nuclear issue to
338		rally its people hoping they will
339		forget the everyday difficulties
340		under clerical rule. After decades
341	0:34:54	of difficult relations with Iran, it
342		is important that we remain on the
343		right side of history supporting the
344		legitimate aspirations of the Iranian
345		people. The same holds true for the
346		Palestinian people. They are ill
347		served by a terrorist-led government
348		that refuses to recognize Israel's
349		right to exist, refuses to renounce
350		violence, and refuses to acknowledge

Line#	Timecode	Quote
351	0:35:19	prior peace commitments. The United
352		States cannot have normal relations
353		with such a government, one that
354		deliberately targets innocent Israeli
355		civilians in an attempt to terrorize
356	0:35:33	the Jewish population. In view of
357		Hamas' continued refusal to accept
358		basic standards of international
359		decency, the Congress should pass
360		before the end of this year the
361		Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act.
362		[Applause]. This bill has passed
363		both houses in different forms. The
364		leaders of the House and Senate must
365		come together to resolve their
366	0:35:59	differences so that we can pass a
367		final version in November. It is
368		tragic that we have come so far since
369		1993, when Yasir Arafat and Yitzhak
370		Rabin shook hands on the White House
371		lawn, when it seemed that the
372		possibility of permanent peace
373		between Israel and the Palestinians
374		might be at hand. We also are far
375		from 2000 when Arafat rejected the

Line#	Timecode	Quote
376	0:36:26	best hope for peace the Palestinians
377		may ever see. Today, the dream of
378		peace has transformed into a
379		nightmare of terrorist attacks, the
380		radicalization of the Palestinian
381	0:36:39	population, and Gaza-based rocket
382		barrages on Israel long after its
383		withdrawal from the strip. In view
384		of the increased threats to Israeli
385		security, American support for Israel
386		should intensify to include providing
387		needed military equipment and
388		technology. No American leader
389		[applause]. No American leader
390		should be expected to sell a false
391	0:37:09	peace to our democratic ally,
392		consider Israel's right to self
393		defense less legitimate than ours or
394		insist that Israel negotiate a
395		political settlement while terrorism
396		remains its adversaries favored
397		bargaining tool. [Applause]. This
398		is not to accept the eternal
399		hopelessness of a political solution
400		but to embrace the hope that Israel's

Line#	Timecode	Quote
401		people can live in
402	0:37:39	safety until a Palestinian leadership
403		truly committed to peace emerges from
404		the chaos and despair so evident
405		under the rule of Arafat and now
406		Hamas. No moral nation, neither
407	0:37:53	Israel nor America, can allow
408		terrorists to chart the political
409		course of its people. Nor would we
410		favor the Palestinian people if we
411		were to confer our acquiescence or
412		approval upon a terrorist syndicate
413		that has won elections among a
414		population desperate for change. We
415		will defeat terrorism against America
416		and we will stand with Israel as she
417	0:38:19	fights the same enemy. [Applause].
418		This enemy will not be limited to
419		Palestinian terrorism as the war in
420		Lebanon illustrated so graphically.
421		The cease fire, the UN Security
422		Council resolution, and the peace
423		keeping force are all welcomed
424		attempts to stop the fighting that
425		followed Hezbollah's unprovoked

Line#	Timecode	Quote
426		attack. And yet I fear that we are
427	0:38:48	witnessing a mere pause in the
428		fighting rather than its end.
429		Israel's chance for peace with its
430		northern neighbor resides in a
431		Lebanon whose government has a
432	0:38:57	monopoly on authority within its
433		country. That means no independent
434		militias, no Hezbollah fighters, no
435		weapons and equipment flowing to
436		Hezbollah. It means bolstering the
437		security of Lebanon's borders and
438		ensuring that Hezbollah is not
439		deployed in the south. Yet, neither
440		the Lebanese Army nor the
441		International Force is prepared or
442	0:39:20	willing to take on Hezbollah.
443		So long as that is the case the
444		current pause is likely to enable
445		Hezbollah to regroup, reconstitute
446		and rearm. There is one bottom line
447		to achieve peace sooner or later
448		Hezbollah must be disarmed.
449		[Applause]. In the meantime, the
450		international community must make

Line#	Timecode	Quote
451		sure that the Lebanese government,
452	0:39:54	not Hezbollah, is able to win hearts
453		and minds through social welfare
454		activity. Hezbollah started handing
455		out money in other forms of
456		reconstruction assistance within days
457	0:40:04	of the cease fire. Only by
458		empowering the Siniora government to
459		provide this aid can we help
460		marginalize Hezbollah and ensure that
461		it does not remain a belligerent
462		state within a state. But we have an
463		additional task. As Americans who
464		have suffered the pain of our own
465		countrymen held in Lebanon, we must
466		do everything we can to ensure that
467	0:40:28	the two kidnapped soldiers held by
468		Hezbollah and the third held by Hamas
469		return home safely. [Applause]. The
470		other area of critical importance to
471		the security of both Americans and
472		Israel is Iraq. Let me be clear.
473		Iraq is going through very difficult
474		times, and the next months are
475		critical to the future of that

Line#	Timecode	Quote
476		country and the region. We cannot
477	0:41:01	wish away the many serious mistakes
478		we have made there or the violence
479		that plagues that society. With
480		civil war a real possibility the
481		temptation is to wash our hands of a
482	0:41:16	messy solution. To follow this
483		impulse, however, is a risk - is to
484		risk catastrophe. Most observers
485		inside Iraq agree that a precipitous
486		American troop withdrawal would make
487		the violence there much worse, not
488		better. The Iraqi security forces
489		are today plainly incapable of
490		handling operations on their own. If
491		U.S. forces begin a pullout, we risk
492	0:41:41	all-out civil war and the emergence
493		of a failed state in the heart of the
494		Middle East. Allowing such a haven
495		for terrorists to emerge would
496		profoundly threaten the security of
497		the United States, Israel, and our
498		other friends, would invite
499		intervention from Iraq's neighbors
500		including Iran, not to mention the

Line#	Timecode	Quote
501		enormous bloodshed that would likely
502	0:42:04	be unleashed on the long suffering
503		Iraqi people. I believe that success
504		in Iraq defined as a stable state
505		with a flawed but functioning
506		government is difficult, but still
507	0:42:18	possible. We must do everything
508		possible to succeed there. And we
509		should not forget that the benefits
510		of success would be enormous for Iraq
511		and throughout the region, but the
512		road is going to be long and tough,
513		and it will be costly in dollars and
514		American lives. There are a number
515		of adjustments I believe we need to
516		make it is clear that the coalition
517	0:42:41	has never had troop levels adequate
518		to prevent looting, insurgency and
519		violence against civilians. The
520		Iraqi security forces will, I hope
521		one day, be able to handle these
522		tasks on their own, but today they
523		are not. As a glance at any
524		television screen shows so
525		graphically. And so while some

Line#	Timecode	Quote
526		politicians have called for a draw
527		down of American
528	0:43:03	troops in Iraq, I believe we still
529		have too few troops there. Part of
530		the stabilization effort [applause]
531		part of the stabilization effort will
532		require dealing at long last with a
533	0:43:20	problem of independent militias.
534		Just as in Lebanon the Iraqi
535		government will not succeed so long
536		as it lacks a monopoly on authority.
537		It is not easy to take on groups like
538		Muqtada al-Sadr Army, but is
539		essential for the future of Iraq. It
540		also involves reinvigorating the
541		reconstruction effort. In this year
542		of
543	0:43:42	unprecedented oil revenues, I would
544		like to see the Gulf countries
545		contribute to an Arab reconstruction
546		fund for Iraq. [Applause]. My
547		friends, the debate over the conduct
548		of our Iraq engagement has become an
549		element in a larger debate over the
550		roll of democracy and promotion in

Line#	Timecode	Quote
551		the Middle East. Critics charge that
552		the emphasis America has placed on
553	0:44:09	democracy in recent years has only
554		led to results contrary to our
555		interests and site real and perceived
556		electoral setbacks in the Palestinian
557		authority, Egypt, Iran, and
558	0:44:20	elsewhere. These are real concerns
559		and we can't dismiss them. Yet at
560		the same time we cannot always expect
561		a linear, forward march to freedom in
562		countries that have never known it.
563		On the contrary, the road to
564		democracy is likely to be long and
565		winding and elections are but one
566		element of a larger democratic
567		phenomenon, an element that sometimes
568	0:44:45	cause - comes at the beginning of the
569		process, sometimes in the middle, and
570		sometimes only at the end after the
571		appropriate institutions have been
572		forged and values inculcated.
573		But if the alternative to our
574		democracy promotion effort is a
575		return to the days in which we simply

Line#	Timecode	Quote
576		supported pro American dictators
577		throughout the Middle East, I say
578	0:45:11	this cost is too high. We have
579		learned the dangers in such approach,
580		and the lessons have been painful.
581		If the despair, the alienation, and
582		the disenfranchisement brought in
583	0:45:22	Middle East autocracies contribute to
584		the horrors of international
585		terrorism we owe it to ourselves, and
586		the world to promote change. Only
587		[applause] only this position is
588		consistent with the values on which
589		America and Israel are based. Our
590		two democracies are strong in arms to
591		be sure, but stronger still in ideas.
592		We fight this year - we fight this
593	0:45:52	year, and we will likely fight next
594		year and the year after that, and
595		though we fight to protect our land
596		and our people, we battle also for
597		the triumph of our values, including
598		that simple but profound truth that
599		all men and women are created equal
600		and endowed by God with certain

Line#	Timecode	Quote
601		unalienable rights. This shared
602		faith has forged a deep bond between
603	0:46:21	America and Israel. We are allies
604		and strategic partners, and that is
605		important. But we have a moral bond
606		too. As two democracies, fiercely
607		guarding our common ideals, and it is
608	0:46:34	this moral bond that makes all the
609		difference. There has been a deep
610		debate in recent months about the
611		wisdom of America's pro-Israel
612		orientation and even about the
613		loyalties of individuals and groups
614		like these. This debate, I submit,
615		misses the point. To defend our
616		democratic ally in the Middle East is
617		to defend the principles that America
618	0:46:59	holds dear. I stand here today as I
619		believe all of you stand here as well
620		proudly pro American and proudly pro
621		Israel. Thank you very much.
622		[Applause; music]
623		MALE VOICE: Thank you so much
624		Senator McCain, Senator John McCain.
625		[Applause; music]

Line#	Timecode	Quote
626		MR. BASIL JAFFEY: Good morning. I
627		am Basil Jaffey AIPAC's
628	0:51:54	Houston Council Chair. [Applause].
629		Hundreds of years from now when
630		archeologists study 21 st Century
631		civilization our PDA's, blackberries,
632		day timers and email archives may
633	0:52:14	offer the truest indicators of what
634		we valued and how we fold our
635		precious short days. With that in
636		mind, I would like you to think about
637		how you want to fill the year ahead.
638		Where do opportunities exist for us
639		to deepen our knowledge, make
640		important friendships and connections
641		and a meaningful difference to our
642		lives and those of our families and
643	0:52:39	our people? In order to add
644		meaningful, educational experiences
645		and opportunities to our lives AIPAC
646		continues to provide us with exciting
647		and unique programs. There are two
648		in particular that I want you to
649		focus your attention on so that you
650		can program them into your schedules

Line#	Timecode	Quote
651		and your PDA's and sign up today.
652		First, there is AIPAC's Annual Policy
653	0:53:08	Conference in Washington, D.C., next
654		March 11 th through 13 th . And no I did
655		not write the remarks that Pete
656		Sessions made at the dinner last
657		night. If you have been
658	0:53:19	to a Policy Conference before, then I
659		don't need to say much more except to
660		remind you to sign up today and you
661		will be able to save \$100 on the
662		registration price. If you have not
663		yet been to a Policy Conference, stop
664		cheating yourself and sign up today.
665		Policy Conference is a life altering
666		inspirational event. Not only will
667		you find it personally rewarding
668	0:53:47	and worthwhile, but your
669		participation will make a real and
670		tangible difference to Israel. Each
671		year our face-to-face meetings on
672		Capitol Hill with members of Congress
673		and their staffers have a real and
674		measurable effect on pending
675		legislation that directly affects the

Line#	Timecode	Quote
676		security and strength of both Israel
677		and the United States. In addition,
678		it is
679	0:54:14	not too early to plan to be with us
680		at next year - next year at the AIPAC
681		National Summit in Philadelphia,
682		October 28 th and 29 th , 2007. Once
683		again, if you register by the end of
684	0:54:27	today, you can receive \$100 off the
685		registration price and pay only \$95
686		to be part of another fabulous summit
687		in the city where our forefathers set
688		the American democracy in motion.
689		Philly is a great city and especially
690		scenic in the fall. So I hope each
691		of you will plan to be with us both
692		at the National Summit in
693		Philadelphia and at the Policy
694	0:54:54	Conference in Washington, D.C., in
695		only a few months from now. I look
696		forward to seeing you all there.
697		[Applause; music]
698		MR. ISRAEL FOGEL: Good morning. I
699		am Israel Fogel, National Summit
700		Chair for San Antonio. [Applause].

Line#	Timecode	Quote
701		Thank you. Nobel Laureate Elie
702		Wiesel tells a story from the Midrash
703		of Job, who was in Egypt at the same
704		time as
705	0:55:30	Moses and held the important position
706		of advisor in the Pharaoh's court.
707		When the Pharaoh asked his advisors
708		how he might resolve the Jewish
709		question, one man spoke in
710	0:55:45	favor of Moses' request to let his
711		people go. Another advisor took the
712		opposite stand. When Job was asked
713		he refused to take sides he wished to
714		remain neutral, so he kept silent
715		neither for nor against. His
716		neutrality, the Midrash says, earned
717		him his future suffering. Wiesel
718		writes that that moment of peril no
719		one has the right to abstain. When
720	0:56:19	the life or death or simple well
721		being of a community is at stake,
722		neutrality is criminal, Wiesel
723		stated, for it aids and abets the
724		oppressor and not his victim. Our
725		next speaker understands the crucial

Line#	Timecode	Quote
726		importance of taking a stand and the
727		dreadful consequences that neutrality
728		can bring. As an AIPAC activist for
729		two decades and
730	0:56:50	now as AIPAC's President, Howard
731		Freidman has devoted his life to
732		purposeful, thoughtful action and to
733		helping others find their own part
734		toward pro-Israel political
735	0:57:05	activism. Our entire community
736		benefits from Howard's passion,
737		conviction, and unstoppable energy.
738		Ladies and gentlemen, it is my
739		pleasure to introduce AIPAC's
740		President, Howard Friedman.
741		[Applause].