



Position Paper on the United States and our relationship with State of Israel by Jeffrey D. Perry, Candidate for Congress, 10th Massachusetts District

I deeply appreciate the critical relationship between the United States and Israel. Our two countries share many values and common interests, including, but certainly not limited to the dedication to democracy, individual freedoms, religious faith, and the goal of a peaceful future.

Israel is our closest political ally and friend in the Middle East region. If I am fortunate to be elected as a member of Congress, I will continue in my unwavering support of the strong relationship and necessary relationship between the United States and Israel. Below are my thoughts on a number of key issues:

As a State Legislator

I have been a strong supporter of the Iran Divestiture Bill currently working its way through the State Legislature. Massachusetts should follow the lead of many other states that have passed such important legislation which is designed to increase pressure on Iran to stop its illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons. I look forward to the opportunity to vote on this measure soon.

Israel's Right to Self-Defense

I stand steadfastly behind Israel's natural right to defend itself against attacks from other nations, states and terrorist groups. I firmly oppose any other nation or organization's effort targeted at undermining this fundamental right. The United Nations' commissioned Goldstone Report reflects a blatant disregard of such a right. In my view, this report falsely accuses Israel of war crimes with little reference to the fact that Israel held its fire for years while thousands of rockets were fired at innocent civilians.

I have great respect for the self-restraint exercised by Israel and believe the people and government have peace as the primary goal; however, no nation should be required to sit by when under attack. Every legitimate nation has the right of self-defense. I pledge to join with other congressional leaders who have called on the President and others to reject this report.

For the self-protection of the people of Israel, I support the security barrier. This barrier has proven to be tremendously successful at defending and protecting Israeli civilians against waves of deadly terrorist attacks. The barrier has also been moved and should continue to be moved when it can be done without compromising Israeli security and while minimizing the hardship it places on Palestinians.

United States Security Funding

I support the ten year memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel which will provide \$30 billion in military aid to Israel thru 2017. Since the vast majority of said aid is invested in American products and services, it also has a positive economic impact for the American economy. This agreement and funding will allow Israel to maintain the military superiority required to protect itself and the military interests of the United States.

The Iranian Threat

In my view, the Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad represents a serious and present danger to the entire world, the State of Israel and the security interest of the United States. Despite being a signer of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has continued to develop a nuclear weapons program. Having already supported deadly terrorist activity, Iran has now apparently secured a new partner in Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. This relationship should alarm all who have a desire for peace.

I believe the United States must respond accordingly and without hesitation to protect our own interest, the security of Israel and the entire Middle East region. If elected, I would affirmatively support several proposals, including the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009, which enhances the President's authority to sanction entities that export refined petroleum products to Iran. I also would work to restore funding for the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC) which was recently cut by the Obama administration and support continued intelligence sharing by the Mossad and the CIA.

Improving Middle East Relationships

It is the right of the people of Israel to control their own destiny and I stand with Israel's unconditional right to live in peace. If elected to Congress, I will encourage public alliances between Israel and other countries aiming to counter the Iranian threat. Additionally, I will use the power of my office to persuade Israel's neighbors to grant their own citizens the democratic freedoms and individual liberties similar to the citizens of Israel. Regarding Arab boycotts of Israeli companies, I will work to eliminate such practices as they are harmful to both economic and security considerations.

The Palestinians & Peace

I stand with Israel and the majority of United States political leaders in support of a two-state solution as the best hope for peace between the Palestinians and Israel. Israel has made enormous sacrifices in an attempt to secure peace, including the bold unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. Now with the Palestinian leadership divided by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, real and meaningful negotiations have failed to take place.

From my perspective, Israel has proceeded as a willing partner for peace with a long history of attempting to make peace whenever it has a real and sincere peace partner. In the past, this has proven successful in discussion and success with both Egypt and Jordan. If I am fortunate to serve as a member of Congress, I would support a two-state solution that recognizes Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel. I also support policies which require Palestinians to abide by agreements signed by past Palestinian leaders. For any meaningful long-term peace process, former agreements must be the starting point for any future negotiations.

Concluding Thoughts

I have a strong desire to visit Israel in order to gain a more meaningful understanding of the many complex security and strategic challenges the good people of Israel face. I am also eager to personally visit and observe how Israeli innovations in the arts, sciences, agriculture, renewable energies, bioscience and computer technologies can and will directly benefit the lives of the citizens of Massachusetts and the United States.