

MARTY LAMB FOR CONGRESS

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Position Paper on the United States – State of Israel Relationship

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As a congressman representing Massachusetts' Third Congressional District, I would be a firm and vocal supporter of the strategic relationship between the United States of America and the State of Israel. Israel and the U.S. have been long time allies. Jewish settlers in pre-State Israel fought alongside the Allies in World War II and Israel was a strong U.S. ally in the days of the Cold War. Today, Israel and the U.S. share technology, intelligence and the values of freedom and democracy as they stand together against common threats.

One such common threat is radical Islam. Radical Islam is not only anti-Israel, it is anti-U.S., anti-West and anti-freedom. As proof, Americans have become targets of terror much like the citizens of Israel. Recent events on our army bases, in the sky over Detroit and in Times Square are terrifying reminders of this sad fact. And these events should drive us to stand with ever greater resolve *with* our allies and *against* the forces of radical Islam wherever they appear. This includes providing Israel with all of the necessary military and financial support as they stand on the front lines of this battle.

Even a minor withdrawal of support for Israel by the United States, a hesitance to clearly delineate between good and evil, or a naïve effort to create moral equivalence where there is none will only serve to embolden the enemy in their commitment to destroy us. As Ruth Wisse, the Martin Peretz professor of Yiddish literature at Harvard University, said to Jewish graduates of West Point in May 2010: “Radical innocence is no match for radical evil.”

As partners in democracy and in military matters I support the ten-year memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Israel which will provide \$30 billion in military aid to Israel until 2017. Since the vast majority of that aid is spent on American products, it is good for both American employment and the American economy. Additionally, I will support the annual foreign aid package for Israel.

Today Israel is our most steadfast ally against Iran. Iran is racing to join the nations with a nuclear weapons capability. A nuclear Iran threatens not only Israel but the stability of the Middle East and any nation which Tehran believes to be its enemy, which includes the U.S. Iran is the largest supporter of terror in the world, including in our own hemisphere. For this reason I support the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009 enhancing the President's authority to sanction entities that export refined petroleum products to Iran. I would also support the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009 which would authorize state pension funds to divest from companies that invest in Iran. In Massachusetts I have and will continue to be a supporter the Iran Divestiture Bill being considered by the State Legislature.

With regard to the broader Middle East, lasting peace can come only when Israel's neighbors – who outnumber Israel in terms of population and landmass by a multiple of thousands – recognize Israel's right to exist, end their state of war against Israel and cease to support those who seek to destroy Israel. Israel is the only nation in the world who must justify her right to exist; this is absurd, unprecedented and unacceptable. Israel is also the only nation which is criticized for defending herself against attacks on her citizens which no other nation would endure.

In my travels to Israel, I have stayed with relatives in Sderot, the city in Southern Israel which has endured years of bombardment from thousands of rockets in nearby Gaza. So it is not difficult for me to understand, on a very personal level, that a government has an unassailable right to protect its citizens.

I supported the recent passage of H. Res. 34 in 2009 which reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself during Operation Cast Lead. I also joined in calling on the Obama administration to condemn the United Nations' Goldstone Report and to "strongly and unequivocally oppose any further consideration of the [Report] and any other measures stemming from this report." In the meantime, I will continue to support the security barrier erected by Israel which has proven to be enormously successful at defending and protecting Israeli civilians against waves of deadly terrorist attacks.

With regard to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, hope remains for a two-state solution. However, no solution can be forced on Israel and negotiations cannot take place until the Palestinian government, currently divided between Fatah and the terrorist organization Hamas, recognize Israel. Currently, the maps in their schools and government offices show a "Palestine" which includes all of the state of Israel; and Palestinian schools teach students that becoming a suicide bomber is the highest achievement to which they can aspire. If peace to be possible, the tragic Palestinian culture of death and denial can no longer be accepted and ignored.

Ultimately I support a two-state solution that does not compromise security for Israel; is not imposed on the parties; recognizes that returning to the 1967 borders is both unrealistic and unsafe; requires the Palestinians to abide by existing agreements; and underscores Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. Additionally, I support the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 which would move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem if Israel is supportive of the move and when it is safe to do so.

As democracies our two nations are beacons of hope to those who suffer under dictatorships all over the world and especially in the Middle East. Israel is alone among nations in the Middle East in guaranteeing equal rights to all citizens. In contrast, the nations which surround Israel oppress men, women and children, with punishment, including imprisonment and sometimes the death penalty, meted out to gays, just for being gay, women who refuse to submit to their second-class citizenship and members of other religions, including Christians, who wish to practice their faiths. Muslims who live in Israel have rights which they would not have in Muslim nations. Israel, up until the liberation of Iraq, was the only nation where Muslim women – and some men – had the vote.

I have visited Israel many times and have observed how Israeli innovations in the aquaculture, agriculture, biotech, high tech and renewable energies have and can continue to benefit the lives of the citizens and workforce of Massachusetts, the United States and beyond.