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Netanyahu Endorses “Two-State” Solution

Obama Sees “Positive movement” in Netanyahu Speech

The Obama administration has sought to put a positive spin on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent speech in which he endorsed a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Netanyahu also accepted the U.S.-backed principle of Palestinian statehood for the first time but attached a list of conditions that Palestinians have rejected.

“I thought that there was positive movement in the prime minister's speech,” Obama said and noted he saw the possibility for restarting serious peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

But he insisted that Israel must meet its “road map” obligations to halt construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Palestinians must put an end to violence against the Jewish state.

While Netanyahu gave some ground after weeks of pressure from Obama over the issue of Palestinian statehood, Palestinians were disappointed by the demand that they recognize Israel as a Jewish state and for his failure to halt Jewish settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank.

Obama, has called for a full settlement freeze, in line with the U.S.-sponsored “road map,” but Netanyahu, who heads a new right-leaning government, wants building to continue in existing Jewish settlements.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu uttered the words “Palestinian state” in a mid-June speech that mixed tough Zionist statements with talk of peace and conciliation.



Benjamin Netanyahu delivers his peace policy speech at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, June 14, 2009.

“I turn to you, our Palestinian neighbors,” he said, “let us start negotiations for peace immediately. I say to you – we want to live with you in peace and good neighborly relations. I want our children to dream of a better future and realize it. That we will put our energy into plowshares and pruning shears, not swords... I do not want war. No one in Israel wants war. Let us join hands and work at peace. There is no end to the flourishing growth we can

bring to our two nations.”

“The simple truth,” he said, however, “is that the root of the conflict is the refusal to accept the Jewish people’s right to exist in its historic homeland. Whoever thinks that the enmity against Israel is the result of our occupying Judea and Samaria, is confusing cause and effect.” Netanyahu enumerated instances of Arab belligerence against the Jews in the Land of Israel before 1967. “The closer we come to a peace the more the Palestinians move away,” he said. “Every retreat by us was met with thousands of suicide terror bombings and rockets.”

“We vacated the Gaza Strip to the last centimeter and received a downpour of missiles on our communities and our children. Hamas and Hizbullah keep saying that their aim is to free Akko, Be'er Sheva and Haifa. Even the moderate Palestinians, even now, are unwilling to say the simplest thing: Israel is the State of the Jewish People and it will stay that way.”

He added: “In order to achieve peace one needs courage and honesty on both sides – not just the Israeli side. The Palestinian leadership must recognize Israel as the State of the Jewish people.”

“The demand to settle Palestinian refugees inside Israel is incompatible with the continued existence of Israel as a Jewish State,” he said. “It is possible to solve this problem outside the borders of Israel. There is wide national agreement about this among us.”

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(Netanyahu speech - cont'd from previous page)

"Judea and Samaria are not a foreign country for us. This is the land of our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The sovereignty of the Jewish people in our Land does not come from the suffering we have been through. Some say if it weren't for the Holocaust there would be no State of Israel. But I say that if Israel had been established in time there would have been no Holocaust," Netanyahu said.

"Our right to establish our country here stems from one fact: Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people and it is here that our identity was forged."

"In our vision we see two states side by side, each with its own flag and anthem. We do not want Kassams on Petach Tikva or Grads on Tel Aviv. We want peace. We must make sure that the Palestinians cannot create an army. We cannot be expected to agree to a Palestinian state without receiving guarantees that it will be demilitarized. We ask the international community for an express commitment that the Palestinian state will be demilitarized with effective measures – not like the ones in Gaza."

Netanyahu added that the future Palestinian state must not have its own closed airspace and must not be able to sign military treaties with Israel's enemies.

"If we achieve these guarantees we will accept as part of a true peace treaty a demilitarized Palestinian state beside a Jewish state," he vowed.

Jerusalem, he said, will remain the unified Jewish capital, with freedom for all religions. As for Judea and Samaria, Netanyahu explained: "We do not intend to build new communities or expropriate land. But fathers and mothers in Judea and Samaria must be able to let their children live beside them. The settlers are not enemies of the people, they are a pioneering, Zionist, values-oriented public."

"Arabs must choose between the way of peace and the way of Hamas," he declared. "The Palestinian Authority must create law and order in the Gaza Strip and demilitarize Hamas. Israel will not negotiate with terrorists who wish to annihilate us. Hamas will not even let Red Cross representatives visit a soldier who is being held captive in Gaza – Gilad Shalit."

Netanyahu concluded, "I call upon Arab leaders and Palestinian leaders: Let's go in the path of Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein. Let's go in the path of Prophet Isaiah, who spoke thousands of years ago, they shall beat their swords into plowshares and know war no more."

"Let us know war no more. Let us know peace."

Clinton Warns Iran Against Attack on Israel

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned Iran it will face "retaliation" if it launches a nuclear attack on Israel. "I don't think there is any doubt in anyone's mind that were Israel to suffer a nuclear attack by Iran, there would be retaliation," Clinton said in an interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

Clinton did not say who would retaliate, but was responding to a question about her stance as a candidate for the US presidency last year when she vowed Iran would "incur massive retaliation from the United States" if it attacked Israel.

Clinton also referred to the possibility of a pre-emptive "first strike" on Iran's nuclear sites "the way that we did attack Iraq". "Part of what we have to make clear to the Iranians is that their pursuit of nuclear weapons will actually trigger greater insecurity," she said, noting that both Israel and Arab states "are deeply concerned about Iran having nuclear weapons".

Clinton was interviewed in Cairo shortly after President Obama said in a speech to the Muslim world that diplomatic efforts to end Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program had reached "a decisive point". "This is not simply about America's interests. It is about preventing a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that could lead this region and the world down a hugely dangerous path," Obama said.

Iran has resolutely maintained its right to a nuclear program which, it insists, is purely for peaceful means, and Clinton said the key now was a direct diplomatic contact with Tehran to see if their real aim is simply nuclear power. "So, we have to test that and we have to be willing to sit and listen and evaluate without giving up what we view as a primary objective of the engagement, which is to do everything we can to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state," she said.

Shin Bet: Terror Groups Using Social Networking Sites to Recruit Israelis

Terror groups are turning to Israeli citizens on Facebook and other internet social networking sites and offering bribes in exchange for information, the Shin Bet [Israel Security Agency] said in a warning issued to the public.

The Shin Bet warned of the dangers of divulging classified information, as well as the temptation to arrange meetings abroad to collect promised payments, which it said posed kidnapping risks.

The Shin Bet added that recently, an Israeli citizen recounted an incident in which he said a man who identified himself as a Lebanese operative contacted him on Facebook and asked him to divulge classified information. Other such cases have been documented.

In light of this phenomenon, the Shin Bet is asking citizens to refrain from publishing private information such as addresses and phone numbers, and to stay vigilant and suspicious of unsolicited propositions, especially of the kind promising high-paying employment abroad.

The Shin Bet further added that terrorists were also tracking Web sites and forums visited by IDF soldiers and reservists from elite units, to gather information on security apparatuses and army bases.

Dror Benshetrit - Israeli Designer to be Featured by Target Stores



Target stores will soon feature the homeware line of Israeli designer, Dror Benshetrit, to be known as Dror for Target. The award-winning Benshetrit focuses on high impact pieces for small spaces — reportedly due to his Sabra upbringing in small apartments. The collection will include bedding, accessories, and stationery.

The award-winning product designer told Kinetic Architecture that he began designing products during his army service. “I was working as an artist for my whole life, but during my mandatory military service in Israel I felt a separation between my inner constant desire to create, and the day to day tasks that had nothing to do with my artistic passion. I began to resolve this tension by solving problems



Dror Benshetrit's cantilevered chair hangs on a wall when not in use.

around me in a creative way. Some of the solutions resulted in product design. I realized that there is a whole other level of art, which deals with practicality, and I was very fascinated by that notion. I started to seek knowledge about this, and slowly my main form of creativity, which was painting, evolved into three dimensional sculptures and objects.”

Dror's designs will be in the Target stores and available online starting June 14th.

Russia to Halt Sale of MiGs to Syria; Israel to Speed up Russia's UAV Order

Russia has halted plans to sell eight advanced MiG-31E fighter jets to Syria, according to the country's Kommersant newspaper. The change in plans was reportedly due to pressure from Israel, an unidentified source from the Russian defense industry said. “In a similar way, when Russia signed the deal with Syria for delivery of Iskander-E missile complexes in 2005 the Israelis put pressure on Russia, and the contract was annulled,” the source said.

The \$500 million deal, signed in early 2007, was supposed to be the first export deal for the MiG-31E, a heavy twin-engine interceptor capable of flying at nearly three times the speed of sound and simultaneously firing at several targets at ranges of up to 180 km. The aircraft remains the backbone of Russia's manned air defenses.

In related news, Israel plans to expedite production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for Russia after the announcement that Moscow had decided to halt the MiG sale to Syria. Under the \$50 million deal, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will supply Russia with some of its second-tier UAVs. This is the first Israeli sale of military platforms to Russia. Officials said delivery of the UAVs would begin by the end of the year. At a later stage, the deal is likely to include the sale of IAI's long-range Heron, which is capable of remaining airborne for over 50 hours at altitudes of up to 35,000 feet.

Russia's interest in Israeli drones surfaced in late 2008 following the war in Georgia, during which Tbilisi operated Israeli-made drones. At the time, Israel's head of the Defense Ministry's Diplomatic-Security Bureau visited Moscow and received assurances that Russia would not sell its sophisticated S300 air defense missile system to Iran and would consider halting the sale of MiG-31s to Syria.

In addition to the MiG 31Es Syria was to receive a number of MiG-29Ms, an improvement over its current front-line fighters. At this time it is not clear whether that contract was also halted.

Editorial comment:

There are times when reviewing the many news reports for inclusion in ***Israel Matters!*** that one event in particular stands out from the rest as being outrageously and unapologetically biased against Israel. This is one such event (as reported by Arutz Sheva).

EJB

Carter Wants Obama to Remove Hamas from Terror List

The Obama Administration should remove Hamas from the terrorist list, former President Jimmy Carter told the media following his June visit to Gaza. He said he plans on pushing for the change with U.S. officials. Carter's comments came during a joint press conference with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh following their meeting in Gaza. The former president said he tried to convince Hamas leaders to denounce violence, accept the existing interim agreements, and recognize the right of the Jewish state to exist.

"Hamas leaders want peace and they want to have reconciliation not only with their Fatah brothers but also eventually with Israelis to live side by side, with two nations, both sovereign nations recognized by each other and living in peace," Carter said.

Haniyeh told Carter that he supported any plan that aims at preserving Arab rights and leads to the establishment of a sovereign Arab state on all the territories that were occupied by Israel in 1967 "with Jerusalem as its capital." He urged Carter to pressure Israel to lift the security blockade which was imposed on Gaza's border crossings to prevent weapons smuggling.



Former President Jimmy Carter in Gaza after urging Israel to lift its blockade and stop treating its residents like "savages."

During his visit Carter handed over a letter from the parents of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit and asked the group to deliver it on humanitarian grounds. He shared his version of a prisoner swap proposal which included releasing PA women, children, and parliament members he claimed were being held by Israel. Haniyeh said Hamas desired to end the Shalit case and welcomed Carter's mediation efforts.

Asked about his feeling after touring Gaza, Carter said, "My feeling is a feeling of sadness, anger and despair after seeing all this destruction that was caused to innocent people." Carter, who said he was moved almost to tears by the situation in Gaza, promised to bring a "report" of the destruction he saw to Obama, as well as to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and US Middle East envoy, George Mitchell.

Carter said he felt personally responsible that American weapons were used during Israel's offensive in Gaza in January. "I know that the Israeli destruction of houses, infrastructure, and factories in Gaza was carried out by American weapons. I hope that this won't be repeated again," he said.

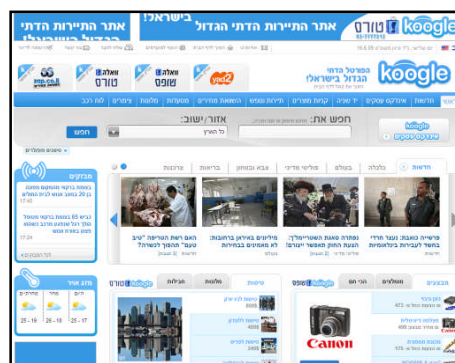
"Someone as high-profile as Carter, coming to the region to meet with Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, is very positive," said a senior advisor to Haniyeh. "He can convey messages to President Obama about the situation in Gaza and in the West Bank and the consequences this blockade has had on our lives. Carter is the messenger that we trust – and that the world community trusts."

Israeli Kosher Search Engine "Koogle" Launched for Orthodox Jews

Koogle, the new Internet search engine recently launched for devout Jews living in Israel is the Orthodox answer to Google. The site, found at "kosher" search engine, allowing compromising their spiritual be-

use of the Internet due to the ease can be accessed. By using Koogle as a filter, weeding out religiously explicit content or immodest pho-

Additionally, Koogle has functions prevented from posting content or until sunset on Saturday. The site the popular noodle dish and the was initially developed with the rael. There, rabbis sought a solution to the conflict between ultra-Orthodox values and the basic utility of Internet access in the country's most religious communities.



www.koogle.co.il, was designed as a Orthodox Jews access to the Web without liefs. Some Orthodox rabbis have banned with which content deemed inappropriate Orthodox Jews can surf the net as it acts objectionable material such as sexually-

photographs of women. to enforce religious norms as users are shopping online from sundown on Friday - whose name is a play on the word for worldwide search engine giant Google - encouragement of religious leaders in Is-