

YES! to New Military Aid for Israel

YES! to New Loan Guarantees for Israel

**YES! to Conditioning Loan Guarantees on
Israel Freezing Settlement Growth**



Israel Needs Our Help

The Intifada has had a brutally violent and financially wrenching impact on Israel, which has been forced to spend more on security to respond to horrific terrorist attacks. Meanwhile, unemployment is rampant, investors are scarce, and poverty is growing.

Ariel Sharon has now requested supplemental aid from the U.S. in the form of new military assistance and loan guarantees worth around \$12 billion. As a Zionist organization, **Americans for Peace Now** urges President Bush and Congress to grant this additional aid.

At the same time, we note that Israel continues to spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year on subsidies, tax benefits, and infrastructure to make it cheaper for Israelis to live in the occupied territories rather than inside Israel proper.

Settlements Hurt Israel

Settlements are a security liability for Israel. They force the IDF to stretch its forces deep into the West Bank and Gaza, leaving communities inside Israel exposed to greater risk. And settlement growth makes it more difficult for Israel to ever extricate itself from the occupied territories and separate itself from the Palestinians.

Moreover, given current demographic trends, Jews will soon become a minority in the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Unless Israel finds a way to leave the West Bank and Gaza, Israel will cease to be a Jewish state. It will also find it impossible to simultaneously maintain its democratic government and minority domination over another people

Conditioning Loan Guarantees to Help Israel

Additional economic assistance that is not linked to political incentives for peace could simply enable the Israeli government to further entangle Israel in the occupied territories, exacerbating its military and fiscal woes, and foreclosing the prospect of any future peace accord with the Palestinians.

New loan guarantees for Israel should be conditioned on Israel ending settlement expansion in the occupied territories. Before any new loan guarantees are provided, Israel should certify that:

- none of the funds acquired with the guarantees will be spent in the West Bank and Gaza;
- an absolute freeze will be placed immediately on all settlement growth, including “natural growth;” and

- all settlement sites recently established in the West Bank will be dismantled within 90 days of the provision of any new loan guarantees.

Any current Israeli settlement expenditures, except those that are security related, should be deducted from the total amount of the loan guarantees. In addition, Israel must begin addressing the needs of the many settlers who wish to return to Israel but lack the means to do so. To help Israel begin addressing this need, 20% of any new loan guarantees should be set aside and made available only to fund construction inside the Green Line to help house settlers wishing to relocate to Israel.

No Reward for Terror

Israeli settlements do not excuse Palestinian violence against Israelis. The international community must press the Palestinians to end the terror attacks and violence against Israelis which have already claimed over 700 Israeli lives.

At the same time, for the sake of Israel and its people, Israel must stop establishing and expanding settlements in the occupied territories. To do so will not represent a reward to terror nor will it deal a victory to the Palestinians. It will be the long-delayed correction of a self-defeating and unilateral Israeli political error.



Saying “yes” to conditions on new loan guarantees for Israel means saying “yes” to Israel’s future as a strong, vibrant democratic Jewish state.

SAVE THE DATE

An Arab-Jewish Dialogue: Ballots, Bombs, and Middle East Peace

Featuring **Prof. Shibley Telhami**, Anwar Sadat Professor of Peace and Development, University of Maryland, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, author of *The Stakes: America and the Middle East*; and **Prof. Mark Rosenblum**, APN Founder and Policy Director and Professor of Middle East history at Queens College.

Date/Time: Wed., January 22nd, 2003, 7:30pm
Location: Beth Emet, The Free Synagogue
1224 Dempster Street (Corner of Ridge), Evanston

To take action on this issue and to learn more about how you can help promote *Shalom Achshav* and Americans for Peace Now's efforts here in Chicago, across the US, with our elected officials in Washington, and in Israel, see our new local website at **www.chicagopeacenow.org**

or contact

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