

## Delegation Urges Senate to Continue Support For Israel's Missile Defense Systems

HANNAH LEVIN

Recently, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved, in a 30-0 bipartisan vote, \$600 million in funding toward Israeli missile defense programs, mandating that Israel's Qualitative Military Edge must be maintained.

The proposed bill will fund the short-range Iron Dome missile program, and long-range missile projects including Arrow Weapon System, and David's Sling anti-missile program. This funding is part of a \$576 billion Defense Appropriations bill, which was passed with a wide, bipartisan majority. However, the Obama administration, which has proposed missile defense funding at a much lower number, pushed back, threatening to veto the bill.

In light of this pushback from the Obama administration, a key delegation, part of the U.S.-Israeli Security Alliance, met with U.S. senators who were instrumental in the \$600 million appropriation for Israel's defense.

"The main purpose of our coming here today," explained co-chair Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, "is to thank the bipartisan group of senators who have been instrumental in the passage of this legislation."

Aside from the moral responsibility

to Israel, co-chair Mr. Leon Goldenberg emphasized the overall robust partnership between the two countries. He stated, "The American defense establishment does not only support Israeli missile defense capabilities and innovation, but also needs and appreciates it. The law states that 75 percent of the money spent in cooperation with Israel on missile defense must be spent in the U.S. Therefore, the U.S. not only benefits from Israeli technology, but U.S. defense contractors also benefit by association."

Mr. Goldenberg further explained: "Israel is now the 23rd largest trader with the United States. There is almost 40 billion dollars in trading going back and forth. There are a quarter of a million jobs in the U.S. tied into Israeli companies. Israel is the fifth largest investor in the United States — ahead of China. It's not just about helping Israel, but it is also about how America benefits."

Co-chair Mr. Sol Goldner added: "It's a two-way street. The United States benefits as well from the technology and the money that's spent here for the procurement."

"That's a very good list of reasons to continue doing what we're doing," Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee, replied. Senator Lindsey Graham and Senator



Lenchovsky Images

L-R: Bukharian Chief Rabbi Itzhak Yehoshua, Senator Lindsey Graham, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, Sol Goldner, Mr. Leon Goldenberg, Mr. Ezra Friedlander.



Lenchovsky Images

L-R: Senator Thad Cochran, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, and Mr. Ezra Friedlander.

### Attention Ladies & Girls

Yides invites you to join us to the most exciting trip

# Niagara Falls

\*Photo ID Required

Leaving Motzei Shabbos Aug. 28,

מוצאי שבת עקב



We Pick Up from the Mountains

For reservations & information please call

718-858-0815 | 917-309-6000

Yides Neuwirth

GROUP RATES APPLY

Tickets must be purchased in advance

John Boozman shared similar sentiments

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who, in a bipartisan fashion, authored and secured a letter urging the Appropriations Committee to completely fund the \$600 million — argued that it is an "unbreakable bond, something we rely on not only for national security, but also for economic growth."

After visiting an Iron Dome site, Senator James Lankford noted, "There are areas we could share information back and forth and be mutually accessible to each other." In regard to the Iron Dome missile program, Senator Thad Cochran encourages Congress to keep doing what they're doing: "I think we've done very well in supporting the Iron Dome, so don't mess it up," he said.

Senator Roy Blunt described this bill as one he very much cares about.

"We believe Israel knows on its own what's best for itself," explained Mr. Sergio Gor, Senator Rand Paul's (R-KY) communication advisor. "Last year [Senator Paul] introduced legislation to defund the Palestine Authority unless

they recognize Israel as a Jewish State."

Bukharian Chief Rabbi Itzhak Yehoshua has high hopes that the administration will pass the bill, noting, "The U.S. has introduced freedom to the world and has always supported Israel which is the only democracy in the Middle East."

Thanking the delegates for their advocacy, Senator David Vitter asserted: "I'm a proud thousand-percent supporter of Israel ... and that will continue, but we always need to keep enlarging that root."

Congressman Ed Royce, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, disclosed why he's such a strong supporter of Israel. Mr. Goldenberg explained: "His father liberated Dachau and he took pictures. And he gave those pictures to his son, saying, 'One day they are going to deny all this, here are the pictures that I took.'"

Ultimately, the poignant comment of Mr. Ezra Friedlander, who is behind the efforts of the U.S.-Israeli Security Alliance, holds true: the Israel-U.S. alliance "reminds us that at the end of the day, we all need each other."