

June 23, 2009

To the Supporters of J Street,

Congratulations on the initial success of J Street. You could not have chosen a more critical moment to mobilize American support for the two-state solution and to promote a broader conception of what it means to be pro-Israel in the United States.

Without diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts, the region faces a future of ever-escalating tension and violence. The remaining window of opportunity for the two-state solution is short. The future of a Jewish, democratic Israel is at stake, as are national and security interests critical to Israel, the United States, the Palestinians and the region as a whole.

We need your help to address this existential threat. Israelis and Palestinians have not and are unlikely to resolve this conflict alone. Majorities of both populations still desire a two-state solution, and we welcome J Street's promotion of strong American leadership in reaching and implementing a comprehensive peace deal.

Only serious, sustained international engagement - not simply further process - can forge a regional solution that addresses outstanding claims and results in comprehensive conflict resolution. And only the United States has the stature and prestige to lead an international effort and orchestrate a regional solution.

We were pleased that President Obama made resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts an early and serious priority. We welcomed the appointment of Senator Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace and are committed to supporting his efforts. Now, it is imperative that America moves ahead and exert the necessary leadership to help us move forward quickly and meaningfully.

We share J Street's view that there is ultimately no military resolution to the political conflicts between Israel and our neighbors. We appreciate your voice of moral and strategic clarity on this point. We value the political space you are opening in Washington, and we believe the broad policy discussion you are encouraging there stands to benefit Israel and the broader Middle East.

As Israelis dedicated to our country, its future, security and progress, we support your effort to promote a safer and more prosperous future for both our countries and the entire Middle East. As Friends of J Street, we stand behind your goal of advancing regional comprehensive peace and security.

Sincerely,

Mr. Yossi Alpher

bitterlemons; former Senior Member of Mossad; former Director of the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies

Col (Ret.) Shaul Arieli

Council on Peace and Security; former Commander Gaza Brigade; former head of the 'Peace Negotiations Administration' under PM Ehud Barak

Rabbi Arik Ascherman

Executive Director, Rabbis for Human Rights

Haim Assa

Former National Security Advisor to PM Yitzhak Rabin

Bernard Avishai

Jerusalem Venue for Jerusalem Supporters and Recruitment; External Contact for David Grossman

Colette Avital

Former Deputy Speaker of Knesset; Consul General

Adm (Ret.) Ami Ayalon

Former Minister and Member of Knesset; former head of the Shin-Bet, and Navy

Uzi Baram

Former Minister of Internal Affairs and Tourism; former Secretary General of the Labor Party

Shlomo Ben Ami

Former Foreign Minister and Public Security Minister

David Broza

Singer; writer; performer

Professor Naomi Chazan

Former Deputy Speaker of Knesset; founder, Israel Women's Network

Sidra Dekoven Ezrahi

Professor, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Maj Gen (Ret.) Shlomo Gazit

Former Commander of IDF Intelligence; former President of Ben Gurion University; member of the staff of Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University

Professor Galia Golan

Interdisciplinary Center, Herzlia

Micha Harish

Former Minister of Industry and Commerce and Secretary General of the Labor Party

Dave Kimche

Former Director General of the Foreign Ministry

Shlomo (Tchich) Lahat

Ret. Major General in the IDF and former Mayor of Tel Aviv

Maj Gen (Ret.) Amos Lapidot

Former Commander of Israel Air Force; former President of the Technion University, Haifa

Alon Liel

Former Director General of the Foreign Ministry

Maj Gen (Ret.) Amnon Lipkin-Shahak

Former Chief of the General Staff of the IDF; former Minister of Transport & Tourism

Eti Livni

Former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset

Maj Gen (Ret.) Amram Mitzna

Former Chairman of the Israel Labor Party and Knesset Member; former Commander of the IDF Central Command and Planning Branch; former Mayor of Haifa

Ambassador Ora Namir

Former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs; Former Ambassador to China

Brig General (Ret.) Israela Oron

Former deputy National Security Council adviser; former Chief of the Women's Corp

Amos Oz

Author

Brig Gen (Ret.) Ilan Paz

Former Head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank

Orni Petrushka

Businessman and Entrepreneur

Rabbi Andrew Sacks

Director General of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel

Adv Talia Sasson

Former Special Adviser to Prime Minister Sharon; author of Sasson Report on Illegal Settlements

Amb. Shimon Shamir

Professor, Tel Aviv University; former Ambassador to Egypt and Jordan

Colonel (Ret.) Gilead Sher

Former Israeli Prime Minister's Chief of Staff and Policy Coordinator

Professor David Shulman

Professor, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Abu Vilan

Former Member of Knesset

Rabbi Levi Weiman Kelman

Kehilat Kol HaNeshama, Jerusalem

Danny Yatom

Former Knesset Member; former Head of the Mossad