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U.S. / ISRAEL RELATIONS

REMARKS BY OBAMA AND PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU AFTER BILATERAL MEETING

Oval Office 1:35 P.M. EDT [Click here for complete transcript.](#)

OBAMA: Well, let me, first of all, welcome again Prime Minister Netanyahu, who I think has now been here seven times during the course of my presidency. And I want to indicate that the frequency of these meetings is an indication of the extraordinary bonds between our two countries, as is the opportunity for the Prime Minister to address Congress during his visit here. I know that's an honor that's reserved for those who have always shown themselves to be a great friend of the United States and is indicative of the friendship between our countries.

We just completed a prolonged and extremely useful conversation touching on a wide range of issues. We discussed, first of all, the changes that are sweeping the region and what has been happening in places like Egypt and Syria and how they affect the interests and security of the United States and Israel, as well as the opportunity for prosperity, growth and development in the Arab world...

We continue to share our deep concerns about Iran, not only the threat that it poses to Israel but also the threat that it poses to the region and the world if it were to develop a nuclear weapon. We updated our strategy to continue to apply pressure, both through sanctions and our other diplomatic work. And I reiterated my belief that it is unacceptable for Iran to possess a nuclear weapon...

Obviously there are some differences between us in the precise formulations and language, and that's going to happen between friends. But what we are in complete accord about is that a true peace can only occur if the ultimate resolution allows Israel to defend itself against threats, and that Israel's security will remain paramount in U.S. evaluations of any prospective peace deal...

So, Mr. Prime Minister.

NETANYAHU: Thank you, Mr. President.

OBAMA: Thank you very much.

NETANYAHU: Mr. President, first I want to thank you and the First Lady for the gracious hospitality that you've shown me, my wife, and our entire delegation. We have an enduring bond of friendship between our two countries, and I appreciate the opportunity to have this meeting with you after your important speech yesterday.

We share your hope and your vision for the spread of democracy in the Middle East. I appreciate the fact that you reaffirmed once again now, and in our conversation, and in actual deed the commitment to Israel's security. We value your efforts to advance the peace process.

This is something that we want to have accomplished. Israel wants peace. I want peace. What we all want is a peace that will be genuine, that will hold, that will endure. And I think that the -- we both agree that a peace based on illusions will crash eventually on the rocks of Middle Eastern reality, and that the only peace that will endure is one that is based on reality, on unshakeable facts.

I think for there to be peace, the Palestinians will have to accept some basic realities. The first is that while Israel is prepared to make generous compromises for peace, it cannot go back to the 1967 lines -- because these lines are indefensible; because they don't take into account certain changes that have taken place on the ground, demographic changes that have taken place over the last 44 years.

Remember that, before 1967, Israel was all of nine miles wide. It was half the width of the Washington Beltway. And these were not the boundaries of peace; they were the boundaries of repeated wars, because the attack on Israel was so attractive.

So we can't go back to those indefensible lines, and we're going to have to have a long-term military presence along the Jordan. I discussed this with the President and I think that we understand that Israel has certain security requirements that will have to come into place in any deal that we make.

The second is -- echoes something the President just said, and that is that Israel cannot negotiate with a Palestinian government that is backed by Hamas. Hamas, as the President said, is a terrorist organization committed to Israel's destruction. It's fired thousands of rockets on our cities, on our children. It's recently fired an anti-tank rocket at a yellow school bus, killing a 16-year-old boy. And Hamas has just attacked you, Mr. President, and the United States for ridding the world of bin Laden.

So Israel obviously cannot be asked to negotiate with a government that is backed by the Palestinian version of al Qaeda.

I think President Abbas has a simple choice. He has to decide if he negotiates or keeps his pact with Hamas, or makes peace with Israel. And I can only express what I said to you just now, that I hope he makes the choice, the right choice, in choosing peace with Israel.

The third reality is that the Palestinian refugee problem will have to be resolved in the context of a Palestinian state, but certainly not in the borders of Israel.

The Arab attack in 1948 on Israel resulted in two refugee problems -- Palestinian refugee problem and Jewish refugees, roughly the same number, who were expelled from Arab lands. Now, tiny Israel absorbed the Jewish refugees, but the vast Arab world refused to absorb the Palestinian refugees. Now, 63 years later, the Palestinians come to us and they say to Israel, accept the grandchildren, really, and the great grandchildren of these refugees, thereby wiping out Israel's future as a Jewish state.

So it's not going to happen. Everybody knows it's not going to happen. And I think it's time to tell the Palestinians forthrightly it's not going to happen. The Palestinian refugee problem has to be resolved. It can be resolved, and it will be resolved if the Palestinians choose to do so in a Palestinian state. So that's a real possibility. But it's not going to be resolved within the Jewish state.

The President and I discussed all these issues and I think we may have differences here and there, but I think there's an overall direction that we wish to work together to pursue a real, genuine peace between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors; a peace that is defensible.

Mr. President, you're the -- you're the leader of a great people, the American people. And I'm the leader of a much smaller people, the --

OBAMA: A great people.

NETANYAHU: It's a great people, too. It's the ancient nation of Israel. And, you know, we've been around for almost 4,000 years. We've experienced struggle and suffering like no other people. We've gone through expulsions and pogroms and massacres and the murder of millions. But I can say that even at the dearth of -- even at the nadir of the valley of death, we never lost hope and we never lost our dream of reestablishing a sovereign state in our ancient homeland, the land of Israel.

And now it falls on my shoulders as the Prime Minister of Israel, at a time of extraordinary instability and uncertainty in the Middle East, to work with you to fashion a peace that will ensure Israel's security and will not jeopardize its survival. I take this responsibility with pride but with great humility, because, as I told you in our conversation, we don't have a lot of margin for error. And because, Mr. President, history will not give the Jewish people another chance...

And I thank you for the opportunity to exchange our views and to work together for this common end. Thank you, Mr. President.

OBAMA: Thank you. END 1:51 P.M. EDT (SOURCE: [White House](#))

Ask the Lord to grant wisdom to world leaders. Pray that these leaders will be able to grasp the importance of God's will and destiny through His revealed promises to Israel regarding the Land! Ask the Lord to open new avenues of creative dialogue regarding serving the needs of both these people groups, Palestinians and Jews. Pray for the current leaders in Israel, including Prime Minister Netanyahu, the mayor of Jerusalem, and all those in the military service. Pray that God would raise up government leaders in Israel, and world-wide, who will not seek to 'divide the land' and who would recognize the unique significance of Jerusalem in God's end-time purposes.

The Lord will not forsake His people for His great Name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make Israel His people (1 Samuel 12:22)

TORNADO DESTRUCTION IN JOPLIN, MISSOURI

We have seen massive devastation in the past few weeks in Joplin Missouri, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Birmingham, Alabama. They have confirmed 124 dead in the Joplin tornado and another 13 deaths after the tornadoes of May 24 in Oklahoma.

We have have been hearing about class F4 and F5 tornadoes. Just what does an F4 and F5 tornado mean and how do such devastating tornadoes form?

Tornadoes are the most violent storms on Earth. Globally, latitudes between 30 and 50 degrees have the most favorable environments for tornadoes. But under the right conditions one can form anytime, anywhere.

The U.S. experiences the most of any country. They occur on average 1,000 times and kill 60 people per year, mostly in two regions -- Florida and the so-called "Tornado Alley," the area between the Rocky and Appalachian Mountains. But they've been recorded in all 50 states, usually between late winter and mid-summer.

No one knows what forms a tornado, but scientists agree on a few general points. The most common tornadoes come from rotating thunderstorms, called supercells.

In a supercell, the updraft of warm air rotates counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere, reaching speeds of up to 175 mph and forcing cool air to descend. The updraft can pull cool moist air -- which would ordinarily fall from clouds -- back up into the sky. The saturated air then condenses to form a rotating wall of clouds, typically toward the back of a cloud in rain-free zones.

With enough strength, the spinning effect creates a funnel, hits the ground and creates a tornado that can last several seconds to more than an hour. Damage can range from superficial, such as roof damage from a falling tree, to completely sweeping away a structure, leaving only the foundation.

Tornadoes are measured on the Fujita scale, created in 1971 by Dr. T. Theodore Fujita of the University of Chicago. It rates the twisters by intensity and area, grading them from weakest to strongest:

- F0 (Gale)
- F1 (Weak)
- F2 (Strong)
- F3 (Severe)
- F4 (Devastating)
- F5 (Incredible)

The damage caused by tornadoes grows exponentially. An F1 storm can cause moderate damage, peeling tiles from roofs and pushing parked cars; an F3 storm will tear walls from houses and uproot trees. An F5 storm, the most dangerous and deadly, will carry cars through the air and damage even concrete buildings.

The deadliest storm in the U.S. was called the Tri-State Tornado; it swept through Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, killing 695 in March 1925. The biggest outbreak of tornadoes happened in April of 1974, when 148 tornadoes ravaged 13 states. In the end, 310 people lost their lives.

Objects can be thrown long distances by tornadoes. Items as large as cars and trucks can be tossed about or pushed along the ground for dozens of yards. But smaller, lightweight items -- or bits of them -- can stay aloft for many miles.

Some examples from the University of Oklahoma's Tornado Debris Project: A flag from a golf course was found 43 miles away, and a cancelled check drifted 125 miles from the site of a 1995 tornado.

The 1996 movie "Twister" depicted storm chasers trying to place small instrument pods in the path of a tornado. The instruments would be carried aloft by the tornado and provide valuable information for forecasters. The biggest obstacle to such efforts is also the most basic.

With limited lead time, getting to the right place at the right time has so far proven to be an insurmountable task. But researchers continue to try more sophisticated methods in an effort to find out what happens inside a funnel cloud.

Much remains unknown but researchers continue to figure out more accurate ways to predict when and where they'll happen next. (SOURCE: The Associated Press, [Fox News](#))

Pray that those families devastated by this violent destructive force recover with support from all available resources in and around Joplin, Missouri. Ask the Lord to give clear direction for a quick recovery for all the families and businesses in Joplin. Pray that the local churches will be given God's grace and that all their needs will be met in Him.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

SENATE AND HOUSE LEGISLATION

SENATE BILL: PARENTAL NOTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION ACT, S.1005

Senator Boozman introduced the Parental Notification and Intervention Act of 2011 (S. 1005), a bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of a minor seeking an abortion. The bill would arm parents in every state with the right to stop teen abortions. The bill, co-sponsored by five other Republican senators, requires that parents be notified by certified mail at least four days in advance of any abortion to be performed on their minor daughter and gives them power to stop an abortion from being performed.

Pray for the leadership of medical doctors in the U.S. Senate like John Boozman. Ask the Lord to advance this legislation to protect families, parents, children and their unborn children. Pray for an end to abortion in America.

"If sinners entice you, Do not consent." (Proverbs 1:10)

HOUSE BILL: TO PREVENT MISUSE OF FOREIGN LAW IN FEDERAL COURTS (H.R. 973)

Of the federal judiciary, this bill requires "In any court created by or under article III of the Constitution of the United States, no justice, judge, or other judicial official shall decide any issue in a case before that court in whole or in part on the authority of foreign law, except to the extent the Constitution or an Act of Congress requires the consideration of that foreign law." This would include limiting the applicability of Sharia Law in the United States.

Ask the Father, "May we always be a people free to proclaim Your Word in the United States of America." Ask the Lord to protect the Constitution and our States from laws that would undermine that freedom.

"Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Micah 4:2)

GRADUATION-RELATED CHALLENGES

Graduation season is upon us, and with it have come numerous challenges to prayers and invocations, and even graduation locations. In Colorado, a last minute glitch forced a public school district to find a new venue for its graduation ceremony. The school accepted a local church's offer for free use of its auditorium. A group objected to the relocation, saying it was "fundamentally wrong" to host the graduation ceremony in the church because of the church's beliefs. A South Carolina high school decided not to have an official prayer at graduation this year, possibly for the first time in the school's history, after receiving a complaint from the Freedom From Religion Foundation. In addition, after this year's ceremony, a Texas school district will stop renting a church facility that it has used for graduations since 2004 due to questions raised by the ACLU. In response to these challenges, Liberty Counsel has announced its ninth annual "[Friend or Foe](#)" graduation prayer campaign. The legal group says it "seeks to educate and, if necessary, litigate to ensure that prayer and religious viewpoints are not suppressed during graduation ceremonies." (SOURCES: [Congressional Prayer Caucus](#), [Liberty Council](#))

Pray that the Lord would raise up righteous leadership to stand in the gap and stand up for the liberties that have been granted to this nation from its foundation. Pray that all those who are in a position to promote prayer in their institutions will stand firm in their convictions to honor the Creator and His Kingdom.

"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." (Isaiah 55: 6)