

U.S. - Israel Memorandum of Agreement

[Editor's note. The government of Israel, as the largest recipient of annual U.S. security assistance funding, participates in a variety of consultation activities and joint planning groups with the United States. Earlier this year, the United States and Israel entered into a formal Memorandum of Agreement which reaffirms the close relationship between the two countries and outlines a comprehensive framework for continued consultation and cooperation. The report which follows includes introductory comments made by Senator Pete Wilson (R-CA), plus the text of the new agreement as published in the *Congressional Record* (16 May 1988, pp. S. 5968-69).]

Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States of America and the State of Israel

• **Mr. Wilson.** Mr. President, I rise today to herald a historic event that occurred on April 21, 1988, during the celebration of Israel's 40th anniversary--the signing of a memorandum of agreement [MOA] regarding political, security, and economic cooperation between the United States and Israel.

This historic agreement recognizes the development of close and increasingly productive bilateral relations that have grown to new proportions in the eighties. It institutionalizes a history of growing and deepening strategic cooperation with Israel, which reflects a shared interest in building peace and stability in the region. Israel is a fellow democratic nation and major non-NATO ally with which the United States has mutual security and economic interests. Strategic cooperation is not a one-way street. The relationship with Israel has greatly enhanced America's strategic position in the Middle East and the Mediterranean and has served as a deterrent to conflict in the region.

In all these important areas---military, economic, and strategic--the two nations are erecting a comprehensive framework for building on the achievements of the past and growing into the future while shielding them from the political turmoil of the region.

Central to this relationship are a series of bilateral groups established in recent years that have been of great value to both countries. The Joint Political Military Group (JPMG) has assisted in the initiation of joint military planning, prepositioning of United States defense material in Israel, and combined exercises with Israeli forces. The Joint Security Assistance Planning Group (JSAP) coordinates the effective implementation of U.S. security assistance and reviews cooperative defense industrial issues. The Joint Economic Development Group (JEPD) concerns itself with developing policies which promote a strong and self-sufficient economy in Israel. With the signing of this MOA, these groups will now continue to exist and to strengthen their efforts toward the building of strategic ties between our two nations.

Mr. President, Israel is our close friend and ally, and we both have benefitted greatly from our close ties. I know that my colleagues join me in applauding this MOA and the mutual benefits of the United States-Israel relationship that it reflects.

Mr. President, I ask that the full text of this critical agreement be inserted in the *Record* at this point.

The memorandum of agreement follows:

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL REGARDING JOINT POLITICAL,
SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

PREAMBLE

The parties to this Memorandum of Agreement reaffirm the close relationship between the United States of America and Israel, based on common goals, interests, and values; welcome the achievements made in strategic, economic, industrial, and technological cooperation; recognize the mutual benefits of the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement; take note of United States economic and security assistance to Israel; and note that Israel is currently designated, for the purposes of Section 1105 of the 1987 National Defense Authorization Act, as a major non-NATO ally of the United States. The parties wish to enhance their relationship through the establishment of a comprehensive framework for continued consultation and cooperation and have reached the following agreement in order to achieve this aim.

ARTICLE I

The United States and Israel recognize the value of their unique dialogue and agree to continue frequent consultations and periodic meetings between the President and the Prime Minister, between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, between the Secretary of Defense and the Minister of Defense, and between other Cabinet-level officials. In these meetings, international bilateral issues of immediate and significant concern to both countries will be discussed as appropriate.

ARTICLE II

A. The Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs will meet regularly for a Joint Political Consultation (JPC) to discuss a wide range of international issues of mutual interest with a view toward increasing their mutual understanding and appreciation of these issues.

B. The United States Agency for International Development and Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Division of International Cooperation (*Mashav*) will meet periodically to coordinate and facilitate, as appropriate, programs of cooperative assistance to developing countries.

ARTICLE III

The United States and Israel reaffirm the importance of the following U.S.-Israeli Joint Groups:

A. The Joint Political Military Group (JPMG) is the forum in which the two states discuss and implement, pursuant to existing agreements, joint cooperative efforts such as combined planning, joint exercises, and logistics. The JPMG also discusses current political-military issues of mutual strategic concern.

1. The JPMG is a binational, interagency group co-chaired by the Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs.

2. The JPMG normally meets biannually, alternating between Israel and the United States.

B. The Joint Security Assistance Planning Group (JSAP) is the forum in which the two states review Israel's requests for security assistance in light of current threat assessments and U.S. budgetary capabilities and agree upon proposed levels of security assistance. The JSAP also discusses issues related to security assistance, such as industrial and technological cooperation, as well as issues related to Israel's inclusion among those countries currently designated as major non-NATO allies of the United States for the purposes of cooperative research and development under Section 1105 of the 1987 National Defense Authorization Act.

1. The JASP is a binational, interagency group co-chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Defense and the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science, and Technology.

2. The JASP currently meets annually, in Washington, D.C.

C. The Joint Economic Development Group (JEDG) is the forum which discusses developments in Israel's economy. With a view to stimulating economic growth and self-reliance, the JEDG exchanges views on Israeli economic policy planning, stabilization efforts, and structural reform. The JEDG also evaluates Israel's requests for U.S. economic assistance.

1. The JEDG is a binational, interagency group co-chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Finance and the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs. The group includes private U.S. and Israeli economists invited by their respective countries.

2. The JEDG currently meets biannually, alternating between the United States and Israel.

ARTICLE IV

This Memorandum of Agreement does not derogate from any existing agreements or undertakings between the two states nor in any way prejudices the rights and obligations of either state under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law. In accordance with the above, the parties reaffirm their aspirations to live in peace with all countries. This agreement shall come into effect upon signature, shall be valid for an initial period of five years, and shall thereafter be renewed for additional periods of five years unless either party notifies the other prior to the expiration of a five year period that it wishes to terminate the agreement.