

Security Challenges of the 21st Century: The US and Israeli Roles in the Middle East under Changing Political Circumstances

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

18:30 Reception

Opening: Dr. Oded Eran, Director, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

Welcome: Mr. Frank Lowy AC, Chairman, INSS

Professor Zvi Galil, President of Tel Aviv University

Keynote Address: Mr. Ehud Barak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Defense

Guest Speaker: Professor Stanley Fischer, Governor of the Bank of Israel

Thursday, December 18, 2008

08:00 Registration

09:00 First Session

The American-Israeli Alliance under New Administrations

Chairman: Professor Yair Evron, Tel Aviv University and Senior Research
Fellow, INSS

The Honorable George J. Mitchell (USA)
Former United States Senate Majority Leader

The American Perspective

Professor Itamar Rabinovich
Deputy Chairman, INSS, former Israeli Ambassador to the US and President of
Tel Aviv University

The Israeli Perspective

10:00 Second Session

Developments in US Foreign Policy: Continuity or Change?

Chairman: Dr. Oded Eran, Director, INSS

The Honorable Howard L. Berman (USA)
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee

US Strategy in the Global and Regional Context

Senior Diplomats: Panel Discussion

The Israeli Experience with Changing Administrations in Washington

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Third Session

**Assessment of the Future Middle East: Challenges, Opportunities, and
Obstacles**

Chairman: Dan Meridor, Adv., Vice Chairman, INSS, former Israeli Minister
of Finance and Minister of Justice

Professor Manuel Trajtenberg

Head of the National Economic Council, Board Member, INSS

The Global Economic Crisis and its Impact on the Middle East and US Regional Policy

Professor Asher Susser

Department of Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University

The Changing Middle Eastern Platform: Implications for US Policy

12:30 Guest Speaker

MK Tzipi Livni, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

The New Administrations: Facing the Challenges

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Greetings

Ambassador James B. Cunningham, US Ambassador to Israel

14:10 Fourth Session

The Iranian Challenge and the Nuclear Threat

Chairman: Ambassador Dan Gillerman, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN

Dr. Ephraim Kam

Deputy Director, INSS

The Essence of the Threat

Dr. Martin Kramer

Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies

The US in Muslim and Arab Perspectives

Dr. Gary Samore (USA)

Vice President and Director of Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

Facing the Iranian Challenge: The American Options

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Giora Eiland

Senior Research Fellow, INSS, former Head of Israel's National Security Council

Facing the Iranian Challenge: The Israeli Options

15:40 Coffee Break

16:00 Fifth Session

Security Aspects of Israeli and US Policy in the Region

Chairman: Professor Moshe Arens, former Israeli Minister of Defense and Israeli Ambassador to the US

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Aharon Ze'evi Farkash

Senior Research Fellow, INSS, former Director of Military Intelligence, IDF

Security Challenges Facing the US and Israel

Admiral (ret.) William J. Fallon (USA)

Former head of US Central Command

The US Military and the Middle East

MK Professor Maj. Gen. (ret.) Isaac Ben-Israel

Tel Aviv University

Israeli Security Dependence on the US

17:30 Coffee Break

18:00 Closing Session

Chairman: Dr. Oded Eran, Director, INSS

MK Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of the State of Israel