

APPENDIX 2:

CRITICAL ISSUES TO BE NEGOTIATED IN A US-ISRAELI DEFENSE TREATY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The nature of the bilateral (i.e. essentially American) security guarantee.

Recommendation – limit the treaty to severe (or extreme) and existential scenarios. Include the provision, found in all other US defense treaties, recognizing the parties' rights to self-defense under the UN charter and their constitutional processes.

2. The geographic scope of the treaty.

Recommendation – limit the treaty to the broader Middle East (eastern Mediterranean and Persian Gulf), and to external threats to regional security stemming from global powers (China or Russia today).

3. Future of American military assistance to Israel.

Recommendation – the future of American military assistance and ongoing commitment to Israel's qualitative military edge (QME), and its ability to “defend itself by itself, against any combination of regional threats,” should be assured in the treaty. Conversely, consideration could be given to the possible phaseout of future ten-year assistance packages, if and when Israel's strategic and economic circumstances enable this. The possible transfer of assistance financing from foreign aid bills, to the DOD budget (which covers military cooperation with other treaty partners), should also be considered.

4. Future types of military assistance, joint cooperation in areas such as intelligence, cyber, counter-terrorism, missile defense, defense-related technologies, Israel's role in CENTCOM and cooperation with regional partners, the future and roles of the regional security architecture.

Recommendation – seek broadest possible bilateral and regional cooperation.

5. American expectations regarding Israeli support for American global policy, including troop deployments.

Recommendation – restrict the geographic scope of the treaty to the broader Mideast.