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From: imra@netvision.net.il

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Subject: [imra-l] AIPAC: 96 U.S SENATORS STAND BY ISRAEL AND CALL UPON ARAFAT TO END THE VIOLENCE

AIPAC: 96 U.S SENATORS STAND BY ISRAEL AND CALL UPON ARAFAT TO END THE VIOLENCE

October 13, 2000

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[18 October update: The final number of signatories is 96. Senators Hagel (NE) and Gregg (NH) could not be reached by last Friday's deadline and they have not requested to be added to it. Abraham (MI) and Byrd (WV) were the only Senators who chose not to sign.]

(Washington, D.C.) -- Applauding the U.S. Senate for standing with Israel during a time of crisis, Howard Kohr, Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), today hailed a bipartisan letter to President Clinton from Senate Majority Leader

Trent Lott (R-MS) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD).

The letter, signed by 94 U.S. Senators, expresses solidarity with the state and people of Israel at this time of crisis, condemns the Palestinian leadership for encouraging the violence and doing little to stop it, urges the administration to veto the passage of unbalanced resolutions at the U.N.

Security Council and calls on all parties to revive the peace process. In addition, the letter calls on President Clinton to take all necessary steps

to secure the return to Israel of the three Israelis soldiers kidnaped by Hezbollah terrorists. (At 6:00 P.M, the letter was still circulating)

A copy of the letter follows:

October 12, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you to express both our solidarity with the State of Israel at this moment of crisis and our profound disappointment and frustration with PLO Chairman Arafat. It is, of course, unacceptable for him to resort to violence at any time. But to usher in a deliberate campaign of violence now, when the Government of Israel has been willing to consider unprecedented and painful compromises to achieve a final peace agreement, can only cast deep and troubling doubts about his desire for peace.

Resorting to violence constitutes a fundamental violation of the entire peace process. Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, Chairman Arafat wrote Israeli Prime Minister Rabin that: