

ISRAEL, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED STATES

A BRIEF
GUIDE TO
POLITICS '92

שלום עכשיו
AMERICANS FOR
PEACE

NEW HOPE FOR PEACE

The results of the June Israeli election offer fresh hope and opportunity for peace. The new Israeli government's mandate to pursue the peace process has been cheered by a broad base of Israelis and American Jews who favor a negotiated outcome to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Americans for Peace Now welcomes these new developments. Americans for Peace Now is an American Jewish membership organization and the support group for Israel's largest peace group, Shalom Achshav (Peace Now). We approach the matter of Middle East policy as uncompromising supporters of Israel. Given the strategic and economic significance of the Middle East to the U.S., and the importance of Israel in the hearts and minds of the American public, Middle East policy will remain a major foreign policy challenge for the U.S. throughout the 1990s.

We urge all candidates to incorporate the following components into their positions on U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East:

* Support the peace process currently underway. These are the direct negotiations that Israel has wanted for 40 years. The talks are vital to Israel's security and economic well-being, and to its ability to absorb new immigrants. **The United States must continue to play an active and substantive role in the peace process.**

* Support continued economic aid and security assistance to Israel. The basic aid that Israel receives annually is vital, as are loan guarantees for new immigrants. U.S. assistance should continue to be spent only within the Green Line. The U.S. must also take leadership toward the creation of an international "Marshall Fund" for the Middle East to assist vital economic development, guarantee implementation of the peace agreements, and secure the long-term future of the region.

* Base policy on the implementation of U.N. Resolutions #242 and #338. The final definition of borders, however, must be left for the parties themselves to negotiate.

* Promote a policy based on the full implementation of the Camp David Accords. These would allow for the Palestinians to hold elections for an interim self-governing authority in the territories and for negotiations to begin about their permanent status. A settlement freeze during the transition period would prevent undermining the interim self-governing authority. In addition, U.S. policy should not preclude any other option consistent with Israeli security during this time.

AMERICANS FOR PEACE NOW

"Real security can be achieved only when we achieve peace." This is what 348 reserve commanders and officers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) wrote in 1978, in a letter that became the charter document of Israel's Peace Now movement. The letter urged then Prime Minister Menachem Begin to respond positively to the diplomatic initiative of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Their premise was that **only a political solution to the decades of violence could assure Israel's security for the long run.** In particular, they projected that in the absence of a negotiated peace settlement based on territorial compromise, the violence and extremism engendered in the Middle East would be likely only to grow.

Americans for Peace Now supports the work of its Israeli partners and advocates an active, substantive, and sensitive U.S. role in the peace process.

The **Forward**, a leading American Jewish newspaper, writes that *"Americans for Peace Now has emerged, among the half-dozen or so Jewish groups focused on the Israeli-Palestinian problem, as a dominant force, listened to on Capitol Hill, cited in the press and no longer ignored by the American Jewish establishment."*

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**PEACE NOW.
HELP SECURE
THE DREAM.**