

**National Security Working Group**  
***Weekly National Security Working Group Update***

**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman**  
25 May 2011

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) is comprised of Trent Franks, 2nd, AZ; Connie Mack, 14th, FL; Duncan Hunter, 52nd, CA and Allen West, 22nd, FL. We look forward to providing RSC members updates on national security issues and matters using this forum. We welcome your inputs.

- 
- *Reject Obama's Israeli-Palestinian Call for 1967 Borders (Rep Franks)*
  - *Botched Foreign Policy in Israel Extends to Latin America (Rep Mack)*
  - *Obama's Misguided Focus – A Hamas-led Palestinian State (Rep West)*
  - *Secretary Gates Farewell Tour: Cutting Defense Ignores History (Rep Hunter)*

---

*- Reject Obama's Israeli-Palestinian Call for 1967 Borders (Rep Franks)*

President Obama's suggestion that Israel return to 1967 border lines is a stance that betrays America's closest ally. While the remarks keep with President Obama's long-running record of personal antagonism towards Israel, the President's idea also represents official policy that is either fundamentally ignorant regarding the strategic realities facing Israel or projects blatant apathy regarding Israel's continued well-being.

President Obama's plan would create significant defensive disadvantages for Israel, as vital strategic lands, such as the Golan Heights -- which provides an important mountainous buffer between Israel and the hostile Syria -- and even parts of Jerusalem would be turned over to Palestinian control.

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that returning to the 1967 border lines is not an option for Israel. According to BBC News, PM Netanyahu has said Israel "would be generous with the size of a future Palestinian state but that the border could not rest at pre-1967 lines." Israel is willing to make "painful compromises" in order to achieve peace, but never at the expense of its security. PM Netanyahu has made it clear that in order for Israel to be able to defend itself, "it requires a military presence along the Jordan River."

Israel has been America's strongest ally in the Middle East. Any Israel-Palestinian peace agreement should never compromise the safety and security of a free Israel.

NSWG Contact: Drew Nishiyama, [Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov](mailto:Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov) or 5-4576 in Rep Franks' office

---

*- Botched Foreign Policy in Israel Extends to Latin America (Rep Mack)*

President Obama's Middle East speech last week highlighted the dangerous and reckless foreign policy of this Administration in the Middle East and in the Western Hemisphere. The call for Israel's recognition of the 1967 borders as a basis for future negotiations with the Palestinians is a particularly glaring example. President Obama claims that 1967 border recognition is often talked about in private, but never in public – and for good reason. Such public recognition immediately weakens the position of our most important ally by providing Israel's opponents with greater bargaining power.

It should come as no surprise that the Administration's botched foreign policy extends into our own Western Hemisphere. President Obama's neglect of Latin America has compromised our national security by allowing Iran to gain a foothold in the region, an increased terrorist presence, the installation of corrupt regimes allied to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, and a raging drug war that is spilling across our southern border. The State Department on Tuesday sanctioned Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA, acknowledging for the first time the extent of Venezuela's relationship with Iran. While an important step, the State Department's actions are too little and too late. Secretary Clinton acknowledged last week that the United States has ignored Latin America. This Administration needs to start paying attention to our own hemisphere before last week's mishandling of Middle East policy will pale in comparison to the threat we face to the south.

NSWG Contact: Kristin Jackson, [Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov), or 5-2536 in Rep Mack's office

*- Obama's Misguided Focus – A Hamas-led Palestinian State (Rep West)*

Last week's endorsement by President Barack Obama of the creation of a Hamas-led Palestinian state based on borders that existed before 1967, signals the most egregious foreign policy decision his administration has made to date, and could be the beginning of the end as we know it for the Jewish state. From the moment the modern day state of Israel declared statehood in 1948, to the end of the 1967 Six Day War, Jews were forbidden access to their holiest site, the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, controlled by Jordan's Arab army.

The pre-1967 borders endorsed by President Obama would deny millions of the world's Jews access to their holiest site and force Israel to return the strategically important Golan Heights to Syria, a known state-sponsor of terrorism.

Resorting to the pre-1967 borders would mean a full withdrawal by the Israelis from the West Bank and the Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. Make no mistake, there has always been a Nation of Israel and Jerusalem has been and must always be recognized as its rightful capital.

In short, the Hamas-run Palestinian state envisioned by President Obama would be devastating to Israel and the world's 13.3 million Jews. It would be a Pavlovian style reward to a declared Islamic terrorist organization, and an unacceptable policy initiative.

America should never negotiate with the Palestinian Authority - which has aligned itself with Hamas. Palestine is a region, not a people, nor a modern state. Based upon Roman Emperor Hadrian's declaration in 73 AD, the original Palestinian people are the Jewish people.

It's time for the American people to stand by our strongest ally, the Jewish State of Israel, and reject this foreign policy blunder of epic proportions.

President Obama has not stood for Israel or the Jewish people, and has made it clear where the United States will stand when the Palestinian Authority attempts to gain recognition of statehood by the United Nations. The President should focus on the real obstacle to security -- the Palestinian leadership and its ultimate goal to eliminate Israel and the Jewish people.

NSWG Contact: Josh Grodin, [Josh.Grodin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Josh.Grodin@mail.house.gov), or 5-3026 in Rep West's office

---

*- Secretary Gates Farewell Tour: Cutting Defense Ignores History (Rep Hunter)*

In April 2009, Secretary Gates addressed the Navy War College and warned against the historical precedent of major defense cuts at the conclusion of the Nation's wars. Then two years later, no doubt at the urging of the Obama administration, engineered \$180 billion dollars of cuts to defense spending he sold as efficiencies. In so doing he questioned the need to maintain an amphibious capability in the Armed Services, proposed major draw downs in manpower, and authorized cancellation of major combat systems like the Marine Corps Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV).

Now, the freedom that comes with a definitive retirement date, has given Secretary Gates the opportunity to freely question the Administration's call to cut \$400 billion dollars of defense spending in the next twelve years. Sounding like the Secretary Gates who served under the Bush Administration, in a commencement at Notre Dame he said "A recurring theme in America for nearly a century has been a tendency to conclude after each war that the fundamental nature of man and the iron realities of nations have changed. That history, in all of its unpredictable and tragic dimensions, has come to a civilized end, that we will no longer have to confront foreign enemies with size, steel and strength." The obvious implication to this argument is that our enemies have not left the battlefield, the war on terror is not over, and much will be risked if in Gates' words, "the political leadership of this country decides that it must reduce the investment in defense by hundreds of billions of dollars..."

Specifically, Secretary Gates cautioned against "what we did in the '70s and in the '90s which was these across-the-board cuts that hollowed out the force". Yet many are calling for indiscriminate cuts, proposing everything from across the board 10% cuts, eliminating the MV-22 (currently being successfully employed by the Marines Corps and Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan) to cancelling the F-35 program. The latter is most concerning as Secretary Gates specifically mentioned the F-35 as a must buy for the United States along with next generation Air Force Refueling Tankers and ballistic missile submarines. Soft power, which Secretary Gates sees as the "critical importance of diplomacy and development", might be the great elixir for those who seek to cut \$400 billion, but the "ultimate guarantee against the success of aggressors, dictators and terrorists in the 21st century, as in the 20th, is hard power — the size, strength and global reach of the United States military."

NSWG Contact: Jimmy Thomas, [jimmy.thomas@mail.house.gov](mailto:jimmy.thomas@mail.house.gov)

---

Question / comments regarding RSC NSWG items can also be directed to Bruce Miller, [Bruce.Miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bruce.Miller@mail.house.gov)