

Third Ad in a series

The Jewish State and a Palestinian State: Mutually Exclusive or Inclusive? The Limits to US Pressure - Reality and Myth

FROM DEFIANCE OF - TO SUBMISSION TO - PRESSURE

1948-1992: Israeli Prime Ministers, often, defied heavy US pressure, transforming Israel into a role-model of defiance of pressure and terror. They expanded, dramatically, strategic cooperation with the US.

1992-2003: Israeli Prime Ministers have succumbed to moderate US pressure, thus relegating Israel into a role-model of restraint and submission to pressure. They have gained acceptance, while dropping in strategic respect.

STEADFASTNESS IN FACE OF PRESSURE ENHANCES STRATEGIC COOPERATION

*1948/9: The US pressured Ben Gurion (military embargo, threats of economic sanctions and assessment of a Jewish massacre) to refrain from declaration of independence, withdraw from the Negev, internationalize Jerusalem, absorb and compensate Palestinian refugees. B.G. defied the pressure, with a meager 600,000 Jews (5.25MN in 2003), a \$50MN economy (\$100BN in 2003), no military (one of the world finest in 2003), without AIPAC and an unprecedentedly supportive Christian Right (in 2003). B.G. transformed Israel from a weakling to a deterring entity.

*1967: The US, the USSR and the UN pressured Eshkol to refrain from a pre-emptive strike and from reuniting Jerusalem, threatening to isolate Israel and support Egypt. France (#1 supplier of arms) imposed a military embargo. Eshkol defied the pressure, transforming Israel from a strategic liability to an asset.

*1981: The US, USSR, Europe and the UN threatened Begin with military and economic sanctions, lest he bomb Iraq's nuclear reactor. The heads of Israel's Mossad and military intelligence opposed the bombing. Begin defied the pressure, the reactor was destroyed, the US imposed a military embargo and Israel was declared a rogue regime. However, in the long-run, Israel's strategic role was enhanced dramatically and the first US-Israeli strategic agreement was signed in November 1981.

THE USA RESPECTS A "NON-PUNCHING BAG" ISRAEL

US-Israeli relations do not evolve around the narrow axis of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but rather around the wider conflict of shared values, joint interests and mutual threats.

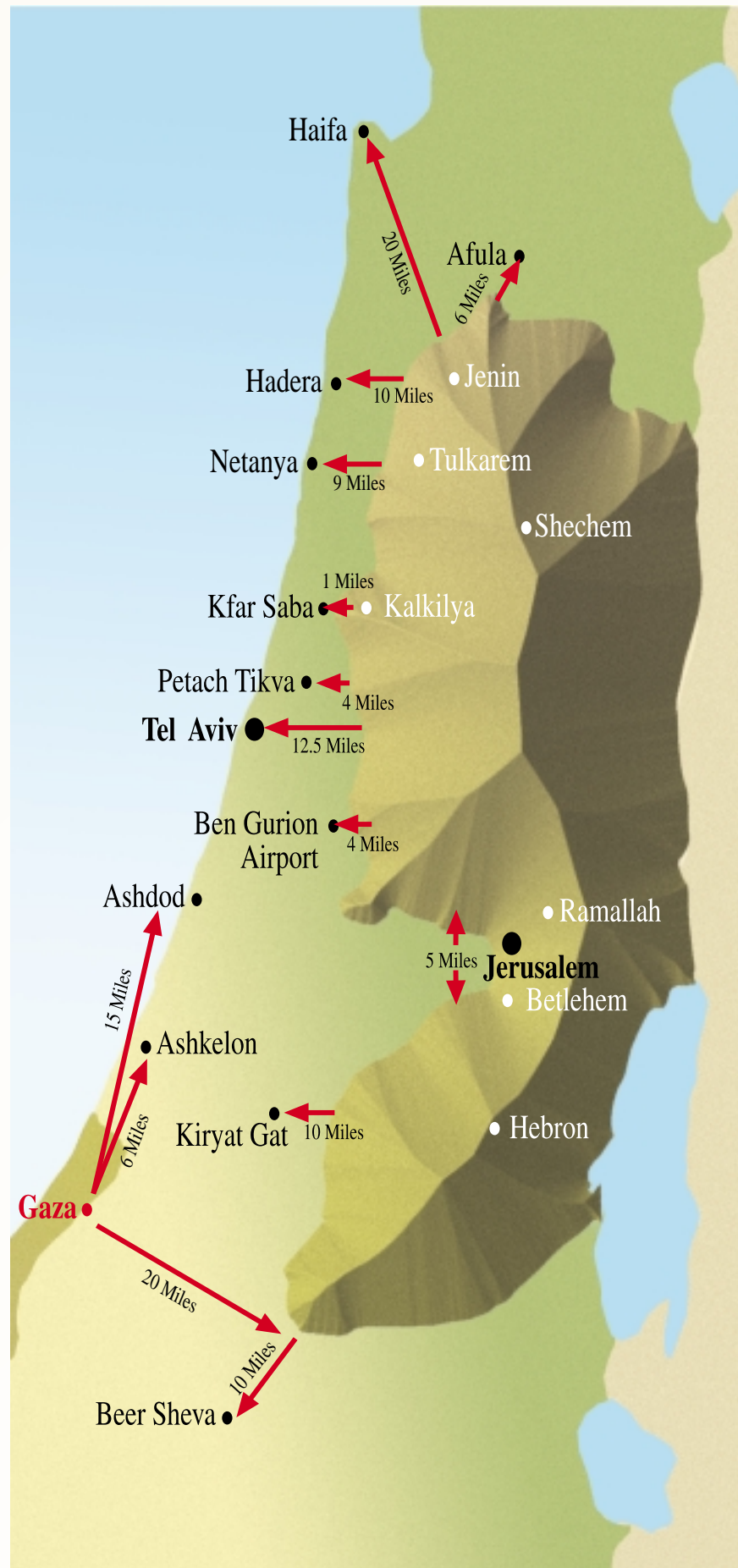
*1983: A US-Israeli strategic accord was concluded in spite of severe tension over the war in Lebanon and the outright rejection - by Israel - of the Reagan Plan. Israel was essential in face of mutual threats: Islamic terrorists (300 GIs murdered in Beirut), Syria and the USSR (Israel downed - in one battle - 80 Syrian Migs and destroyed advanced Soviet surface-to-air missile systems).

*1988: The most substantial US-Israeli strategic agreement was signed in April 1988, at the height of the controversial Intifadah, due to Israel's increasing role as an ally in face of mutual threats (Islamic terrorism, USSR, Iran and ballistic missiles).

*1990/91: An unprecedented expansion of strategic cooperation was led by Congress, despite the Bush-Baker Administration. It reflected Congressional appreciation of Israel's growing strategic role in the aftermath of the demise of the USSR.

DON'T ADVOCATE CONFRONTATION; DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY PRESSURE

Never has Israel enjoyed a wider base of support in the US: the post-9/11 state of mind, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the daily anti-US Arab terror in Iraq, the unprecedented support by conservatives and the Christian Right, a hawkish Congress, a supportive religious President, anti-Oslo and anti-appeasement Vice President and Secretary of Defense. Would Israel be able to leverage that support in order to advance long-term strategic goals, even at the expense of short-term tension, as it was until 1992?



Judea & Samaria Mountain Ridges - 3,000 ft. above the Jordan Valley and 2,000 ft. above the 8-15 mile coastal plain - constitute the "Golan Heights" of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The title of the next Full Page Ad: US Pressure - Reality and Myth

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