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# US government statements emphasizing the US national security interest in Israeli-Palestinian peace

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## US Presidential Statements

- **Barak Obama:** Press Conference at the Nuclear Security Summit: "It is a vital national security interest of the United States to reduce these conflicts". April 13, 2010 – <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/press-conference-president-nu...> [2]

- **Barack Obama:** Remarks by the President on a new beginning: At Cairo University, the President says peace "is in Israel's interest, Palestine's interest, America's interest, and the world's interest. And that is why I intend to personally pursue this outcome with all the patience and dedication that the task requires." June 4, 2009 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-cairo-unive...> [3]

- **Barak Obama:** Remarks following a meeting with President Abbas and an exchange with reporters: "...the United States views our long-term strategic interests: a situation in which the Palestinians can prosper, they can start businesses; they can educate their children; they can send them to college; they can prosper economically." May 28, 2009 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=86214&st=two-state&st1=s...> [4]

- **Barak Obama:** Remarks following a meeting with PM Netanyahu and an exchange with reporters: "...it is, I believe, in the interest not only of the Palestinians, but also the Israelis and the United States and the international community, to achieve a two-state solution in which Israelis and Palestinians are living side by side in peace and security." May 18, 2009 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=86174&st=two-state&st1=s...> [5]

- **Barak Obama:** News Conference: “It is critical for us to advance a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in their own states with peace and security.” March 24, 2009 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=85909&st=two-state&st1> [6]

- **George W. Bush:** Remarks at the Saban Forum: “I was the first American President to call for a Palestinian state and support--and build support for the two-state solution has been a top priority of my administration.” December 5, 2008 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=85109&st=two-state&st1=s...> [7]

- **George W. Bush:** Remarks at the World Economic Forum in Sharm el-Sheikh: “A peace agreement is in the Palestinians' interests; it is in Israel's interests; it is in Arab States' interests; and it is in the world's interests”. May 18, 2008 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=77377&st=two-state&st1=s...> [8]

- **George W. Bush:** Interview by Israel's Channel 10 TV: “...in this administration... we have placed American foreign policy – a top priority of our foreign policy is squarely in the Middle East...” May 12, 2008 - <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=77349&st=two-state&st1=s...> [9]

## US Senior Administration Statements

- **Susan E. Rice:** Speech at the Arab American Institute Annual Gala: “President Obama and all of us in his Administration are determined to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East—central to which is a two-state solution. President Obama has defined this goal as a vital U.S. interest.” April 21, 2010 - <http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2010/140691.htm> [10]

- **Joe Biden:** Speech at Tel Aviv University: “Building peace and security between a Jewish democratic state of Israel and a viable, independent Palestinian state is... fundamentally in the national security interest of the United States of America.” March 11, 2010 – <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/March/20100311123835eai...> [11]

- **Gen. James L. Jones:** Remarks at Fourth ATFP Gala: “The President is committed to achieving two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security... because he believes that peace is in America's interests, just as it is in the interests of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.” October 15, 2009 – [http://www.americantaskforce.org/remarks\\_national\\_security\\_advisor\\_gen\\_j...](http://www.americantaskforce.org/remarks_national_security_advisor_gen_j...) [12]

- **George Mitchell:** Cairo Speech: “...a comprehensive Middle East peace is not only in the interests of the people in the Middle East, of Palestinians, Israelis, Egyptians, Arabs from many other countries, but it is also in the national interests of the United States.” April 19, 2009 - <http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rm/2009/121907.htm> [13]

- **Condoleezza Rice:** Testimony at the Committee on Foreign Relations House Hearing, 110th Congress: “The United States has enduring national interests in the Middle East, economic, geopolitical, security, and moral values. The Middle East is now and will remain one of the most strategically important parts of the world for our national interests and for international security.” October 24, 2007 <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/110/38542.pdf> [14]

- **Nicholas Burns:** Keynote Address at Second ATFP Gala: “We view the creation of a Palestinian state to be not only in the interest of Palestinians, Israelis, and their neighbors, but

also as a key American interest." October 17, 2007 -

[http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote\\_address\\_nicolas\\_burns\\_atfps\\_sec...](http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote_address_nicolas_burns_atfps_sec...) [15]

- **Condoleezza Rice**: Keynote Address at ATFP Inaugural Gala: "...the creation of a Palestinian state ... would indeed strengthen peace and security, not just in the region but the peace and security of us all." "I can only tell you that I, too, have a personal commitment to that goal because I believe that there could be no greater legacy for America than to help to bring into being a Palestinian state for a people who have suffered too long, who have been humiliated too long, who have not reached their potential for too long, and who have so much to give to the international community and to all of us." October 11, 2006 –

[http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote\\_address\\_secretary\\_state\\_condole...](http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote_address_secretary_state_condole...) [16]

## Congressional Statements

- **Richard G. Lugar** (R-IN): Opening Statement at the Committee on Foreign Relations Senate Hearing, 109th Congress: "The advancement of the peaceful two-state solution ... is urgently needed ... and is critical to United States success in the global war on terrorism."

June 30, 2005 - [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_senate\\_hearings&docid=325814](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_senate_hearings&docid=325814) [17]

- **Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA) and **Richard Lugar** (R-IN): S.R.224 – Israeli-Palestinian Peace Resolution: "A comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement is in the national interest of the United States and should be a top priority in the region." June 7, 2007 –

<http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=NewsRoom.PressRelease&ReleaseID=100001> [18]

- **Rep. Steve Cohen** (D-TN), **Rep. Charles Boustany** (R-LA) and **Rep. Russ Carnahan** (D-MO): Letter to President Barack Obama: "Implementing a two-state solution is essential for American interests in the Middle East and around the world ... many of America's critical national goals ... will be well-served by addressing this core issue". May 13, 2009 -

<http://www.reiner-bernstein.de/genferinitiative/genferinit/erklarungen/Cohen-Bo...> [19]

- **Chuck Hagel** (R-NE): Speech at J-Street First National Conference: "The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is central to U.S. vital security interests in combating terrorism". October 27, 2009 –

<http://www.acus.org/highlight/chuck-hagel-delivers-speech-j-street-first...> [20]

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[4] <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=86214&st=two-state&st1=solution>

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- [13] <http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rm/2009/121907.htm>
- [14] <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/110/38542.pdf>
- [15] [http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote\\_address\\_nicolas\\_burns\\_atfps\\_second\\_annual\\_gala](http://www.americantaskforce.org/keynote_address_nicolas_burns_atfps_second_annual_gala)
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- [18] [http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=NewsRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=06f899cac-709e-585d-079985003aec](http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=NewsRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=06f899cac-709e-585d-079985003aec)
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- [20] <http://www.acus.org/highlight/chuck-hagel-delivers-speech-j-street-first-national-conference>
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