

36

AIPAC Sept 2004 Fundraisingletter

September 7, 2004

Dear AIPAC Member

We are writing to keep you informed and ask for your help.

As you know last Friday evening, CBS news led their broadcast with a sensational story that an employee at the Department of Defense had allegedly disseminated internal White House policy deliberations on Iran to Israel through two AIPAC staff members.

First and foremost, we want to assure you that any allegation of criminal conduct by AIPAC or our employees is false and baseless. Neither AIPAC nor any of its employees has violated any laws or rules, nor have AIPAC or our employees ever received information we believed was secret or classified. We also want you to know that AIPAC is cooperating fully with the authorities and is eager to assist them in any way in order to help bring closure to this issue.

Over the last several days, America's political leadership and the American Jewish community have rallied in support of AIPAC. Last week, in New York, during the Republican National Convention, AIPAC hosted a series of events that attracted the same high level of participation as our events at the Democratic National Convention in Boston several weeks ago.

Just 48 hours after these false allegations against AIPAC were reported, more than 60 members of Congress, 5 governors, 8 senators and dozens of other political leaders showed their support for AIPAC and attended our programs in New York...

Jewish community support for AIPAC also surged in the aftermath of the allegations. Attendance at AIPAC's community event in New York last week soared to 1,500, more than double what was originally expected.

The allegations are not just about AIPAC. The very essence of the U.S. -Israel relationship is under assault. ...Why is this happening? Why is it happening now? Because the stakes are high. You know this. But so do our adversaries.

The reason you have been supportive of our work in the past is because you know that AIPAC matters. Thank you. We greatly appreciate the generosity you've already demonstrated to AIPAC. Your contribution has helped us make a significant difference.

But this recent assault will require an even greater effort to respond to those who are using the allegations to question the entirety of the U.S.-Israel relationship, questioning the right of Jewish Americans to be involved in the political process, questioning your rights and mine- to advocate for a strong Israel.

Already, the Council for the National Interest ran a full page ad in the Washington Times, highlighting the allegations in a clear attempt to influence Washington's policy makers into thinking that AIPAC is doing something wrong.

...Fortunately in the past week, we've received numerous calls from members like you, asking, "How can we help?" It is important that we show strength at a time like this. One of the best indicators of AIPAC's vitality is our financial strength. Why? Decision makers in Washington will be measuring your commitment to AIPAC as an indicator of AIPAC's overall strength. One of the few ways they can gauge confidence in AIPAC is by looking at our relative financial strength.

That is why today, we are asking you to make an additional contribution beyond what you have already pledged to AIPAC. Your generosity at this time will help ensure that false allegations do not hamper our ability or yours to work for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and a safe and secure Israel.

Your additional contribution at this time is a vote of confidence in AIPAC and a clear message to our critics that your commitment to the political process is unshakable.

000198

We cannot abide any suggestion that American citizens should be perceived as being involved in illegal activities simply for seeking to participate in the decisions of their elected leaders, or the officials who work for them. That is our right as citizens of the greatest democracy in the history of mankind. That is a right we will proudly exercise. That is a right we will staunchly defend.

...AIPAC is the only organization of its kind working with Congress and the Administration to protect America and Israel from terrorism and to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. If we do not work to help ensure Israel's safety, who do we think will?

Please help us to continue to do our critical work by sending us a special, additional contribution today. Your support at this moment will give us needed resources and will demonstrate to our adversaries that the pro-Israel community is stronger than ever.

In the coming days and weeks, it will be especially important for AIPAC supporters such as yourself to continue to demonstrate your confidence as Americans and as supporters of Israel.

...Thank you in advance for sending us an additional contribution at this critical moment. Thank you for standing with us and working by our side to strengthen the relationship between two great democracies America and Israel.

Sincerely,

Bernice Manocherian President
Howard Kohr Executive Director

P.S. You can be certain that we will not let any innuendo or false allegation against AIPAC distract us from our central mission - supporting America's interests in the Middle East and advocating for a strong relationship with Israel. Your additional support at this hour will allow us to continue to do that.