



## **Role of the American Embassy to Israel**

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The State of Israel remains one of our greatest regional allies in terms regional martial and economic capacity and the ability to influence peace and stability in the Middle East. Maintaining a positive, working relationship with the State of Israel is essential to achieving the long and short term strategic interests of the United States in both the Middle East and North Africa. With the tension as high as ever between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbors, it is of paramount strategic importance that the United States maintain a proactive stance toward all parties in an effort to ensure worldwide strategic aims are met. Some of the major priorities facing the Embassy right now include, but are not limited to: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, deteriorating Israeli-Turkish relations, likely outcomes of any strike on Iranian nuclear power, the rise of conservative Islamic regimes known to be unsympathetic to Israel, illegal arms trading and smuggling by terrorist and militants in Palestinian controlled and surrounding territory, and the security of Suez Canal. The embassy will be the primary conduit of communication with the Government of the State of Israel, providing policy on and engaging this body.

The current situation demands the assistance of the following individuals:

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**Deputy Ambassador:** The Deputy Ambassador is the second in command to

the chief of mission. When the Ambassador is in consultations with Washington, the Deputy Ambassador assumes the role as interim chief of mission allowing him to be styled "His Excellency." The Deputy Ambassador otherwise acts as the chief of staff, assisting the Ambassador with the management of the Embassy staff and representing the Ambassador at official state functions.

**Special Assistant to the Ambassador:** The special assistant to the Ambassador deals with all affairs outside the normal realm of foreign relations, to include but not limited to advising the Ambassador on decision making, actions in the foreign state, and acts as the Central Intelligence Agency's Station Chief within that nation.

**Special Assistant to the Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs:** the special assistant to the Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs is the in house expert on Palestinian-Israeli relations with duties including, but not limited to, advising the Ambassador on the impact of state actions on the Palestinian peoples and territories.

**Legal Counsel:** The Legal Counsel is organized to advise the Ambassador on International treaties and laws with regards to actions taken between the United States and Israel. The legal counsel develops the boundaries that a state may work within the international system, and is responsible for responding to any legal claims by Israel.

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**Defense Attaché:** The defense attaché works as the point of contact for military personnel in the region, acts as the subject matter expert on Israeli military capabilities and strategy as well as the general capabilities and strategies of the nations in the region, coordinates US Military and Israeli Defense Forces relations, is the liaison to DIA, and acts as an advisor to the Ambassador.

**Chief of Economic Office:** The Chief of Economic Office is the chief advisor on the Israeli economy, US-Israel economic activities, and the liaison between Israeli owned corporations, American owned corporations and the United States Government. The Chief of Economic Office is also certified as a representative of the Department of the Treasury.

**Information Management/Public Affairs Officer:** The Information Management and Public Affairs Officer is in charge of acting as the liaison with the Israeli media sources, organizing and analyzing open source intelligence, coordinating US media responses, and advising the Ambassador on the state of public affairs and opinion.

**Regional Security Officer:** The Regional Security Officer is a civilian in charge of advising the Ambassador on the military affairs of Israel and the US in the region. More recently, this office has begun to mostly take on the role of dealing with non-conventional warfare, and has given a counter to traditional military attaché logic.

**Chief of Political Office:** The Chief of Political Office deals with the State of Israel's bureaucracy, and informs the Ambassador on their personnel such as psychological profiles, relationships, and status.

**Human Rights Advisor:** The Human Rights Advisor advises the Ambassador on the state of human rights within Israel as well as Israeli controlled territories, works as the liaison with Non-Governmental Organizations working in the region, and acts as the subject matter expert on reform movements inside of Israel.

**Natural Resource Affairs Advisor:** With the natural resources being of paramount concern to the long term defense of the United States, the Natural Resource Affairs Advisor is in charge of economic deals with Israel, environmental issues regarding this material, and is the subject matter expert on US and Israel resource policy and affairs.

**FBI Legal Attaché:** The FBI legal attaché is the liaison between the FBI and the Internal Security Ministry. He/she also leads any investigations allowed by the Israeli government into crimes committed against US citizens in Israel. Additionally, he/she serves as another legal advisor for the ambassador, albeit from law enforcement rather than a legal counsel perspective.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://weknowmemes.com/2011/05/the-situation-room/>