

Governor Cuomo meets with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu

August 13th 2014

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu's Remarks:

I want to welcome you and your delegation to Israel – it's a pleasure to see you all here especially at this time. I just said to you that the first thing I want you to do is to send the warmest regards to your father. I remember him, fondly from my days at the United Nations. At that time, in the United Nations, I had to address the question of the constant attempts to force a moral asymmetry on the world, or a false symmetry on Israel. That's what you do in the United Nations if you are the ambassador of Israel. And I remember how strongly, firmly and clearly, Governor Cuomo – Mario Cuomo stood with Israel at the time and this is a tradition that continues with you and your delegation. I want to thank you for coming here, for standing clearly in Israel, representing the American people and the people of New York and also representing the rejection of this false symmetry that has made, just as you wouldn't put America and ISIS on the same moral plane, you would never put Israel and Hamas on the same moral plane. Remember that Hamas celebrated 9/11, they celebrated the murder of thousands of innocent people, including thousands of New Yorkers. They celebrated it. They were standing on roofs and cheering while all the people of Israel grieved with the United States.

When the United States killed Bin Laden, they accused the United States and condemned the United States of committing a crime. This tells you what Hamas is, and Israel is on the other side. Hamas continues to do these horrible things that ISIS does. They persecute Christians, they persecute gays, they persecute women, they basically reject modernity. They are a terrorist tyranny that is imposed on their people. And when their people reject being used as human shield, you know what they do, Governor? They execute them. This is the kind of moral divide that is evident today in the world and on one side you have Israel and the United States representing democracies, committed to human rights, committed to a real future for our people and on the other side you have the likes of ISIS and Hamas. Islamist tyrannies that have no inhibition in pursuing their grizzly creeds and their grizzly deeds. I thank you for coming here and standing on the right side of the moral divide.

Governor Andrew Cuomo's Remarks:

Thank you, thank you very much well Prime Minister, it's our pleasure. We know that you're going through a very difficult time right now and Israel is going through a very difficult time right now and that is precisely why we are here. Because we want to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel, we want to stand in solidarity with you. The delegation that has come forward is unprecedented in some ways, we have the both sides of the legislature, the assembly and the senate it is a bipartisan delegation. We have business representatives, thought leaders, we all

wanted to come as one in solidarity-- in unity to say to Israel 'we understand the situation you are in, we understand what you are facing and we support your right-- your need to defend your people against terror.'

The United States has always been a strong ally of Israel and on many, many levels of New Yorkers we have many connections, family connections, cultural connections, historic connections so our relations go very deep, and I speak for all New Yorkers when I say we stand in solidarity with Israel. The fight that you fight is a fight against terror. Unfortunately, in New York we have had a rude awakening to the pain and suffering that terror can cause in 9/11. So we have a special sensitivity in our hearts for what you're going through now.

Now we wish you peace, everyone hopes that the killing will stop and we can get to a place of peace. I know that's your hope, you have been quite articulate and eloquent on the subject but we understand that Israel must defend itself. The discovery of these tunnels I find very troubling indeed, it shows the extensive approach of the enemy, the constant rocket fire, and the iron dome is successful but that must stop and we understand that also, so we pray for peace and we stand with you in defense.