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Senator Harry Reid
Bruce R. Thompson Courthouse and Federal Building
400 South Virginia Street, Suite 902
Reno, NV 89501
Phone: 775-686-5750 / Fax: 775-686-5757

Dear Senator Reid:

It has come to my attention that you are scheduled to attend and speak at the "Gala Banquet" of the 2007 American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) annual conference being held at the DC Convention Center on March 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

I am urging you to cancel your participation and do not speak at this event.

My concerns are the following:

- ❖ I believe that AIPAC should be registered as an agent of the State of Israel. Since the 1980's AIPAC has been an unrelenting political force for the Likud Party of Israel. It is not a disinterested outlet for different points of view, but a heavy handed political operative for one point of view only. Most Israeli and American Jews do not support the right wing views of AIPAC, but as the second largest lobby in America, it is a powerful force for promoting those narrow views and stifling political dissent.
- ❖ AIPAC works to perpetuate Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid practices in the West Bank and Gaza, including the building of an "apartheid wall".

- ❖ AIPAC works to promote Israel's interests even when they are opposed to US interests. AIPAC employees Steve Rosen and Keith Weismann are indicted for spying against the US on behalf of Israel. It is unseemly for the US Senate majority leader to speak at the organization whose staff members are under indictment for espionage.
- ❖ AIPAC has been a central organizing center for the neocons, Christian Zionists, and others who were instrumental in pushing the United States into its tragic and unnecessary war with Iraq. For the Senate leader of the Democratic Party who won control of the Senate because of its anti-war position to speak at this convention would signal that despite all the "Resolutions" against the war it is still business as usual on Capitol Hill. Now AIPAC is working equally hard to push the US into war with Iran.
- ❖ AIPAC's destructiveness has been highlighted this year by the writings of respected Professors Walt and Mearsheimer ("The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy") and former Democratic President Jimmy Carter ("Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid"). AIPAC provides ideological propaganda and political muscle to promote wars that its military contractor contributors need to profit from.
- ❖ I urge you, Senator Reid, to send a message to the right wing of Israel that the US Congress is no longer "Israeli Occupied Territory" but will assert America's interests over those of a relatively small minority of those in Israel and America who put Israel's interests first. I urge you to cancel your speech at the AIPAC Convention on March 12!

Thank you,
Brendan Trainor

