



President George W. Bush

*A Friend of the
American Jewish Community*



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The Bush Administration is committed to defending religious freedom, confronting bigotry, attacking terrorism, and promoting moral values. President Bush has not just spoken about these goals—he has acted on them. From his earliest days in office, President Bush has condemned anti-Semitism, demonstrated steadfast support for Israel, and promoted compassionate programs at home. President Bush has always recognized that free societies must respect the rights of all their citizens—especially those of different faiths.

The events of September 11, 2001, reminded all Americans that the enemies of religious tolerance are also enemies of all freedom-loving people. President Bush is leading America's war against this threat. Jews understand, from painful history, that those willing to live with terror and intimidation later regret their compromise. And in the war on terror, President Bush is resolved not to compromise.

Today, Jews in America know they have a steadfast friend and defender in the Oval Office. But for the terrorists and their supporters, it is a different story. There are fewer places to hide. There are fewer allies willing to contribute to their cause. And they face a resolute foe in President Bush. And there is no doubt: Freedom and religious liberty will prevail over the forces of darkness, and the Jews of America will continue to live freely in this great land.

Contents

Fighting Hatred and Anti-Semitism.....	1
Defeating the Networks of Terrorism	5
Supporting the Nation and People of Israel.....	9
Recognizing the Compassionate Spirit at Home	13
Statements from the Jewish Community	17
Conclusion: President George W. Bush’s Vision of Peace	23

Fighting Hatred and Anti-Semitism

“This site is a sobering reminder that when we find anti-Semitism, whether it be in Europe or anywhere else, mankind must come together to fight such dark impulses. And this site is also a strong reminder that the civilized world must never forget what took place on this site. May God bless the victims and the families of the victims, and may we always remember.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
AUSCHWITZ, POLAND • MAY 31, 2003



MARCH 7, 2001

President Bush meets with 25 leaders from the Jewish community in the White House Roosevelt Room.

MARCH 20, 2001

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

APRIL 18, 2001

President and Mrs. Bush tour the Holocaust Museum.

The President's actions since September 11, 2001, show he is committed to dealing decisively with terrorism. But he has also shown a heart and sensitivity to speaking out against hatred before it gains the power of arms. The President has spoken out repeatedly against the growing problem of anti-Semitism, in America and around the world. President Bush has made it clear that anti-Semitism must be challenged at all times.



APRIL 19, 2001

President and Mrs. Bush participate in the “Days of Remembrance” Observance in the U.S. Capitol. The President declares, “We are bound by conscience to remember what happened, and to whom it happened.” Mrs. Bush participates in the lighting of candles with a Holocaust survivor.

MAY 3, 2001

President Bush meets with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the Oval Office.

MAY 30, 2001

President Bush welcomes Israeli President Moshe Katsav to the White House for a working dinner with Jewish leaders and senior Administration officials.

He personally condemned anti-Semitic statements by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and has spoken out repeatedly against anti-Semitism, at Auschwitz, at Whitehall, and in private as well.

The White House was a leader in driving Europe's Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) to host a conference on anti-Semitism in Vienna on June 19 and 20, 2003. Nearly 50 national delegations and dozens of international Non-Governmental Organization participants attended. The U.S. delegation was led by former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Because of U.S. leadership, the OSCE held a follow up conference attended by 55 nations in Berlin in 2004. The U.S. delegation was led by former New York Mayor Ed Koch. The conference culminated in a Chairman's declaration condemning anti-Semitism and calling for active responses when Jewish communities throughout the world are threatened.

"We commend President George W. Bush for his forceful denunciation of anti-Semitism, both in the public statements by his Administration over the last several days and in his face-to-face meeting with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. In making his outrage known on both a personal and public level, the President has made clear that the prime minister's anti-Semitism and his continuing defense of his speech is unacceptable and morally repugnant."

ABRAHAM FOXMAN

NATIONAL DIRECTOR, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE • OCTOBER 20, 2003

JUNE 26, 2001

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

The Bush Administration instructs U.S. diplomats to walk out of a conference in Durban when organizers attempt to equate Zionism with racism.

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

Attorney General John Ashcroft meets with American Jewish leaders regarding the terror threat against the American Jewish community.

DECEMBER 2, 2001

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

DECEMBER 7, 2001

President Bush sends his Hanukkah greetings saying, "It is a holiday of hope that encourages trust in God's providence and God's purposes, even when we are threatened by darkness and destruction."

DECEMBER 10, 2001

President Bush meets with 22 leaders from the Jewish community in the White House Roosevelt Room. President and Mrs. Bush, along with Jewish White House staff members and their families, light the Hanukkah candles in the

Defeating the Networks of Terrorism

“[O]ur responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil. War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. The conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 • NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE



DECEMBER 15, 2001

White House residence. Later that day, President Bush becomes the first American President to host a reception celebrating Hanukkah in the White House residence.

The United States vetoes a U.N. Security Council draft resolution that would have established an international monitoring force in Israel.

FEBRUARY 7, 2002

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.



MARCH 14, 2002

President Bush issues an Executive Order adding the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade to the State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

MAY 7, 2002

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

MAY 15, 2002

President Bush welcomes forty-five leaders from the United Jewish Communities to the White House.

When the terrorists struck America, they thought that America would retreat, surrender, and withdraw from the world. They believed they were ushering in a new world. They did, but not the one they expected.

Under President Bush's leadership, in the period since September 11, 2001, two rogue regimes have met their end. A third regime has surrendered its weapons of mass destruction programs. And all over the world, terrorists have seen their funds wither away and their key operatives disappear. President Bush's resolute actions against terror have led to impressive results:

- From New York, to Oregon, to North Carolina, the U.S. Government has dismantled terrorist cells all across America;
- The Department of Justice has criminally charged 340 individuals in the United States in terrorism investigations; 185 individuals have been convicted or have pled guilty;
- The Department of the Treasury has frozen over one hundred million dollars in funds from organizations suspected of supporting terror;
- Two-thirds of Al Qaeda's senior operatives have been captured or killed;
- U.S. and allied forces have incapacitated 3,000 individuals who had enlisted in the campaign of terror against America and her allies.

MAY 27, 2002

President Bush visits the Grand Choral Synagogue in St. Petersburg, Russia.

JUNE 10, 2002

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

JUNE 24, 2002

President Bush demands that the Palestinian Authority's first step to peace begins with democratic accountability, economic reforms, and immediate cooperation in ending terrorist acts.



President Bush “has shown the resolve and courage necessary to wage the war against terrorism. Immediately following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the president presented the core principle of what has become known as the Bush Doctrine, an articulation of American foreign policy that rivals in importance the Monroe Doctrine, which barred foreign imperialism from the Western Hemisphere, and the Truman Doctrine, which sought to contain communism around the world. The Bush Doctrine, simply stated by the president, is: ‘We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.’”

ED KOCH

FORMER MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY • JANUARY 9, 2004

OCTOBER 16, 2002

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.

NOVEMBER 26, 2002

President Bush says in his Hannukah message, “Hannukah reminds us that faith can give us the strength to overcome oppression. Today, the spirit of the Maccabees continues to live and thrive among the Jewish people and in the State of Israel.”

DECEMBER 4, 2002

President Bush welcomes 23 rabbis to the White House. Later that day, the President and Mrs. Bush host the second annual White House menorah lighting and Hanukkah celebration.

Supporting the Nation and People of Israel

“We will speak up for our principles and we will stand up for our friends in the world. And one of our most important friends is the State of Israel... [Israel] is a small country that has lived under threat throughout its existence. At the first meeting of my National Security Council, I told them a top foreign policy priority is the safety and security of Israel. My Administration will be steadfast in supporting Israel against terrorism and violence, and in seeking the peace for which all Israelis pray.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE • MAY 3, 2001



DECEMBER 12, 2002

President Bush directs the Federal Emergency Management Administration to revise its policy on disaster relief, making it possible for non-profit institutions to receive

assistance. As a result, the Seattle Hebrew Academy becomes eligible for such funds to rebuild after a devastating earthquake in 2001.

DECEMBER 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft announces the arrest of four individuals in Texas linked to the Hamas terrorist organization.



On April 14, 2004, President Bush welcomed Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan as "a bold and historic initiative that can make an important contribution towards peace." The President's statement adhered to the principles laid out on June 24, 2002, when he called for consequential and immediate reforms in Palestinian leadership and accountability. As the President's April 14 comments show, he has continued to stand by these demands, and by his belief in the paramount importance of Israel's security. In his words and actions, the President continues to recognize that Israel has been a reliable, proven ally of the United States.

MARCH 30, 2003

Secretary of State Colin Powell addresses the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee's Policy Conference.

MARCH 31, 2003

National Security Advisor Dr. Condoleezza Rice addresses the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee's Policy Conference.

JUNE 4, 2003

President Bush meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Abu Mazen in Aqaba, Jordan.

The powerful statements by the President represent only one component of the President's support for Israel. The President's statements come in the context of a forward strategy for freedom in the Middle East, which will help all of the residents of this troubled region.

In May 2004, President Bush imposed sanctions on Syria for its support of terrorist organizations. "The Syrian government must understand that its conduct alone will determine the duration of the sanctions," the President said.

The Administration's war on terror financiers has also helped Israel. In August 2003, Treasury Secretary John Snow announced the U.S. designation and dismantling of several charities funding Hamas and several members of Hamas' senior leadership. Just a few weeks later the European Union followed suit, putting a financial freeze on Hamas' political wing.

For Yasser Arafat, the message has been clear. While he was a frequent White House guest during the last Administration, he has never been granted a meeting with President Bush.

In addition, although terrorist bombings continue to kill Israelis, America's liberation of Iraq has cut off one source for homicide bombers: Saddam Hussein, who used to bankroll Palestinian homicide bombers with \$25,000 payments to their families after terrorist strikes.

JUNE 11, 2003

President and Mrs. Bush host 70 members of the Jewish community at the White House for a Kosher dinner to honor of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's 10th anniversary.

JUNE 19, 2003

With strong encouragement from the Bush Administration, the first Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) conference on anti-Semitism takes place in Vienna, Austria. Former mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani leads the U.S. delegation.

JULY 29, 2003

President Bush welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the White House.



“While some were praising Yasser Arafat as a model statesman, you understood with great moral clarity the true nature of the man... Mr. President, for your modern day commitment to the Jewish people, and for your faithful friendship to Israel, we are supremely grateful.”

AMY FRIEDKIN

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C. • MAY 18, 2004

SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

President Bush meets with 17 rabbis and Jewish community leaders in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

OCTOBER 20, 2003

President Bush personally confronts Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for making anti-Semitic comments, which he called “wrong and divisive.”

NOVEMBER 15, 2003

President Bush condemns attacks in Istanbul: “The focus of these attacks on Turkey’s Jewish community, in Istanbul’s synagogues where men, women, and children gathered to worship God, remind us that our enemy in the war against terror is without conscience or faith.”

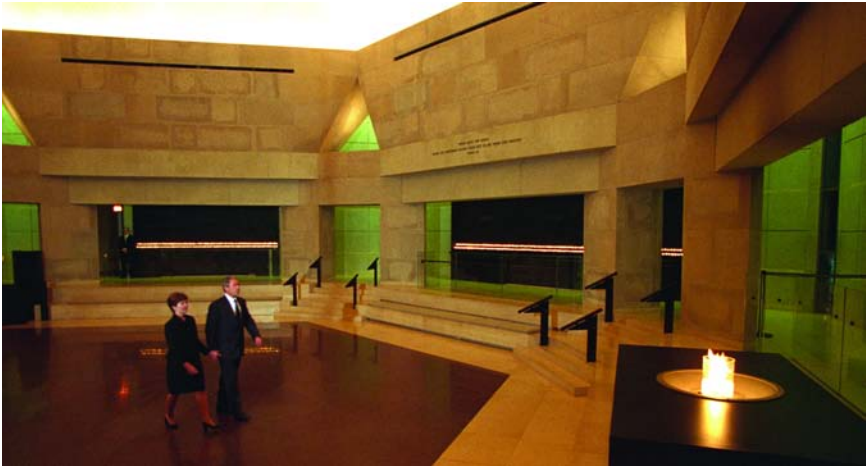
Recognizing the Compassionate Spirit at Home

“The measure of compassion is more than good intentions, it is good results.

By being involved and by taking responsibility upon ourselves, we gain something... We contribute to the life of our country. We become more than taxpayers and occasional voters, we become citizens. Citizens, not spectators. Citizens who hear the call of duty, who stand up for their beliefs, who care for their families, who control their lives, and who treat their neighbors with respect and compassion. We discover a satisfaction that is only found in service, and we show our gratitude to America and to those who came before us.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

APRIL 30, 2002 • SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



NOVEMBER 19, 2003

In a speech at Whitehall Palace in London, President Bush calls on Arab nations to end their state media’s incitement of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish sentiment.

DECEMBER 17, 2003

President Bush signs the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, which calls on Syria to end its occupation of Lebanon, sever ties with terrorist

organizations, and stop development of chemical and biological weapons. The law authorizes the President to impose sanctions on the Syrian regime.



President Bush has taken a number of steps to use the resources of our nation to help our most vulnerable citizens. As so many Americans have known for so long, faith-based and community-oriented charitable organizations help millions—often with far fewer resources than government organizations. President Bush is working to end the government exclusion, federal isolation, and arbitrary prohibitions against helping faith-based groups that show consistent results in solving the nation’s most challenging problems in welfare, education, and drug addiction.

DECEMBER 22, 2003

President Bush meets with 21 leaders from the Jewish community in the White House Roosevelt Room. President and Mrs. Bush welcome two children whose parents serve in the United States Armed Forces to

light the Hanukkah candles in the East Wing. In the evening, the President and First Lady welcome over 300 Jewish community leaders to a Hanukkah reception in the White House.

In the Hanukkah message, the President says, “We hope and pray that all who live under tyranny will see their day of freedom, and that the light of faith will always shine through the darkness.”

On December 12, 2002, President Bush signed an Executive Order that seeks to provide equal treatment for all faith-based organizations when dealing with federal agencies. This order is having a direct impact on Jewish charities and organizations. The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in New York was cited by the President as an example for why this order was necessary: The Council had sought federal grants to provide assistance to the poor, but had been rejected simply because the word “Jewish” was in the organization’s name. With the new federal rules in place, this kind of discrimination is disappearing.

The President also directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to change its stance on providing disaster relief to non-profit organizations. As a result of this intervention, the federal government provided assistance to the Seattle Hebrew Academy, a Jewish school damaged during an earthquake but previously deemed ineligible for disaster relief.

“Many of us, me included, are in favor of faith-based initiatives as long as they are rigorously guarded so as to uphold the First Amendment. The President agreed profusely with this and vowed to set up safeguards to preserve this division.”

RABBI BARUC HALEVI
TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
DES MOINES, IOWA • SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

MARCH 3, 2004

The Bush Administration appoints delegates, led by former mayor of New York Ed Koch, to Europe’s Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) to host a conference on anti-Semitism in Germany.

MARCH 3, 2004

Sixteen-member choir of Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy in Beverly Hills performs at White House interfaith convention in Southern California.

Statements from the Jewish Community

“President Bush has proven to be a friend of Israel, and he conveys that friendship with Israel even at a very personal level.”

HOWARD KOHR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 24, 2002



“The Bush administration has understood the situation in the Middle East far better than most previous administrations. It has been far more honest in confronting the real problems.”

DR. RUTH WISSE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, JEWISH EXPONENT • NOVEMBER 26, 2003



“Bush moved his administration decisively away from the Clinton doctrine of moral equivalency. His June 24, 2002 speech, in which he placed the blame for the current round of Middle East violence squarely on the shoulders of the Palestinian leadership, was a watershed policy statement. Bush has allowed Israel to take measures in self-defense and has taken bold steps to reshape the Middle East towards the goal of democratizing the region. He has also surrounded himself with senior policy advisors who share his desire to support the Jewish state.”

AMI HOROWITZ

THE WEEKLY STANDARD • MARCH 17, 2004



“As Mayor of Miami Beach, I took office shortly after 9-11, and in looking back at what our President has done, I think he has brought us back to a level of security and normalcy that we didn’t have before.”

DAVID DERMER

MAYOR OF MIAMI BEACH • MARCH 4, 2004





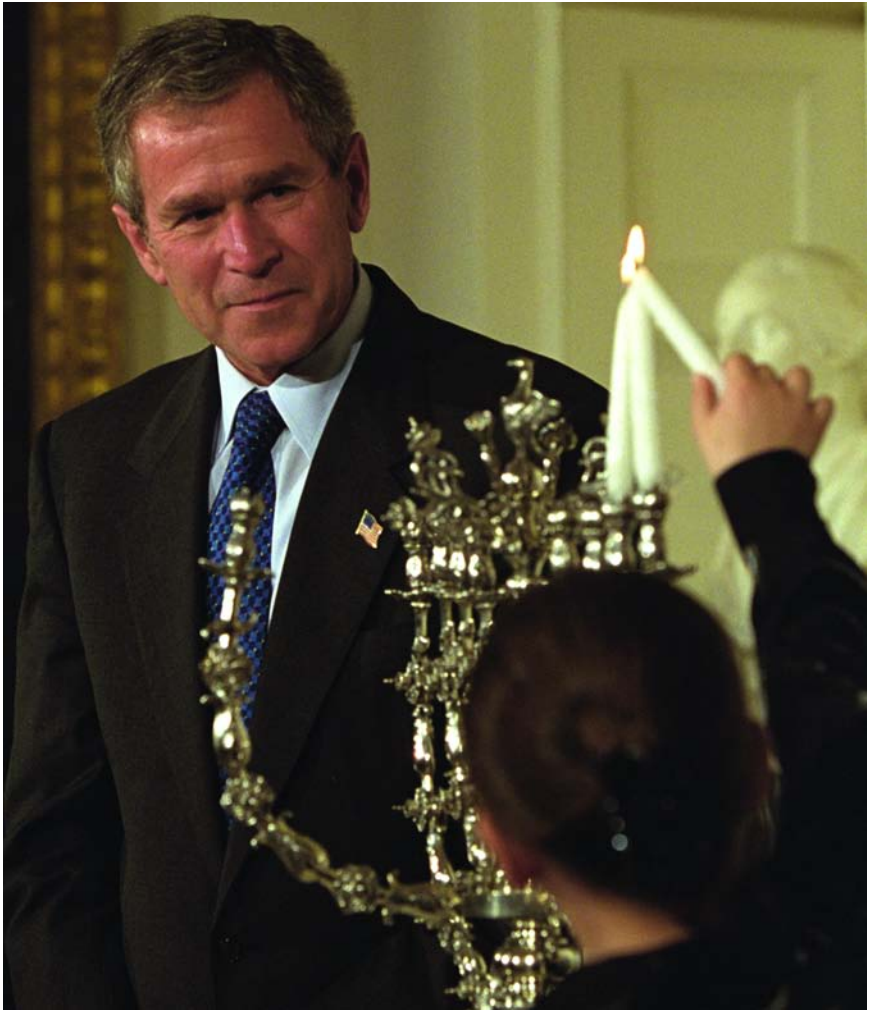
“We commend you for your forceful denunciation of anti-Semitism, both in the public statements by your Administration over the last several days and in your face-to-face meeting with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. In light of the continued support for the prime minister’s speech expressed by leaders of many of the 57 nations that participated in the Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Council, the leadership and moral clarity you demonstrated in denouncing these remarks is all the more important.”

MICHAEL BOHNEN AND HANNAH ROSENTHAL
CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH)



“By directly and forcefully confronting Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in person and declaring that the comments ‘stand squarely against what I believe,’ President Bush has set a powerful example to be followed by those around the globe who seek an end to terror.”

RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN
RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER OF REFORM JUDAISM • OCTOBER 20, 2003



“I would say we’re an awful lot better prepared than we were prior to September 11. I would say that the United States, particularly the intelligence community, is much-better positioned to gather intelligence in real-time than we were before September 11... When we smashed Al Qaeda’s presence in Afghanistan, when we took over its camps, when we scattered its resources, in some ways... we killed Al Qaeda’s front office.”

POLICE ADMINISTRATOR JOHN MILLER
COMMANDING OFFICER, COUNTER-TERRORISM BUREAU
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT • MARCH 11, 2004

“The Orthodox Jewish community is deeply appreciative of the President’s commitment to religious liberty and equality for all Americans.”

STATEMENT BY THE ORTHODOX UNION
DECEMBER 12, 2002



“The President addressed the issue of the global rise of anti-Semitism. While here at home, the issue is also on the rise, it is truly on the rise around the world. It is not the American way to tolerate anti-Semitism... He won’t stand for political leaders allowing political gains from anti-Semitic rhetoric.”

RABBI JACOB LUSKI
CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA • JANUARY 3, 2004



“Mr. President. I would like to begin by expressing gratitude to you on behalf of the Seattle Jewish community and on a personal level for the Faith-Based Initiatives and in particular for the directive to FEMA to allow emergency disaster relief assistance to the Seattle Hebrew Academy, which was severely damaged by an earthquake some three years ago. This is a school that serves the entire Jewish community and one that my own four children attended. This assistance was integral to the success of the effort to rebuild the school.”

RABBI MOSHE KLETENICK
CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADAS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON • DECEMBER 22, 2003



“The events of September 11 have all but expunged Durban from the popular consciousness, but it was a glimpse into the open global convergence of truly spectacular evil. In that connection, it is important to acknowledge the debt we owe President Bush. Alone, literally, among all the world’s leaders, he spurned the conference.”

JEFF BALLABON
PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR JEWISH VALUES
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE • NOVEMBER 25, 2001

“I had the extraordinary experience of spending the fourth night of Chanukah at the White House... 2003 had been quite a year. A war that began at Purim was essentially wrapped up (militarily) by Passover, and by Chanukah, one of the great tyrants of the world—a man who gassed his own people, ran torture chambers for his countryman, and paid the families of homicidal bombers who killed innocent woman and children in Israel—was in our custody. Jews celebrate holidays over such events. As we exited the White House, I felt an enormous debt of gratitude to this President.”

JOEL GEIDERMAN, M.D.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK • DECEMBER 2003



“As he approached me I said to him, ‘Mr. President, you are the best.’ And he gave me a hug and a kiss. It was a kiddush HaShem.”

CANTOR AVSHALOM KATZ
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION • BEVERLY HILLS, CA



“George Bush is the first President to have a Chanukah reception in the White House. Other Presidents had Menorah lighting ceremonies, but none had actually invited Jews from all walks of life for a Chanukah party, and with kosher food to top it off! The experience was truly an awesome one... With the Marine band playing ‘Sevivon sov sov sov’ and ‘I made a little Dreidle’ there was a proud Jewish feeling in the White House that night. No one knows what the future has in store for the world and particularly for the Jewish people. But so far, Mr. Bush has done far more than other Presidents have done. For this we have to thank him and continue to thank him. There is new meaning to the Tefilla that we recite every Shabbos morning on behalf of the President.”

RABBI AVRAM BOGOPULSKY
BETH JACOB CONGREGATION
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • DECEMBER 2003

Conclusion:

President George W. Bush's Vision of Peace

In 1790, President George Washington wrote that America welcomes the culture, the contributions, and extraordinary accomplishments of the Jewish people. In his letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, he reflected that “happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”

This remains as true today as it was in the time of George Washington. Unfortunately, however, around the world, terrorists now target Americans and Jews of all nationalities for their abiding friendship and earnest partnership in pursuit of peace and freedom. Terrorist networks choose targets and plan bombings to bring chaos and to break up this alliance for liberty. Israel's right to exist and the dreams of Jewish Americans infuriate these terrorists.

But with President George W. Bush in the White House, the terrorists' murderous vision has met a relentless guardian of liberty. Jews in America and throughout the world can look to the United States and a White House resolved to defend a brighter future—a future built on tolerance, freedom, peace, and the rule of law.

For the faith, tradition, and values of Jews everywhere, these ideals are the enduring foundation for a building a better, safer, and more just world for our children and our children's children.

