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November 5, 2008

Dear President-elect Obama:

On behalf of Americans for Peace Now (APN), we warmly congratulate you on your historic victory in the race for the White House. APN is America's leading Jewish, Zionist organization dedicated to enhancing Israel's security through peace and to supporting the Israeli Peace Now movement.

With this election, you are opening a new chapter in America's history – one that will permit, at long last, the restoration of our nation's standing worldwide and enable you to leverage America's recovered credibility toward robust peace efforts in the Middle East. In this regard, we warmly welcome your commitment – reiterated in your speech last night in Grant Park – to support those who seek peace and security worldwide.

Yesterday you received a clear mandate from America's voters to change course and re-establish U.S. engagement and leadership in the Middle East policy arena. In particular, this election represents an endorsement of your commitment to engage immediately in an effort to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace, to support Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations, and to adopt a more pragmatic approach toward Iran, including the support - where possible - of direct engagement with Teheran.

Your victory is thus a moment of powerful promise and hope for all who care about Israel, peace, and stability in the Middle East, representing an end to the neglect and foot-dragging that has characterized the Bush administration's approach.

As you prepare to take office, we know there are many pressing issues and crises on your agenda. We want to urge you to ensure that the Middle East – the effort to achieve peace and stability in this vital region – remains high on your list of priorities. And we, like the majority of American Jewish voters, stand ready to support you as you carry out this critically important mandate.

Sincerely,

Franklin M. Fisher, Chair
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