

**Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Shalom Achshav Peace Foundation**

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NEWS

PEACE NOW PRAISES PEACE INITIATIVE

TORONTO - [April 21, 2011] - Canadian Friends of Peace Now welcomes release last week of the Israeli Peace Initiative (IPI), a renewed blueprint for Israeli-Arab peace endorsed by a number of leading Israeli political, intelligence, and security figures.

The IPI is a powerful illustration of how the Netanyahu government could push for peace if it genuinely favoured a two-state solution. That so many of the IPI's signatories come from the Israeli security and intelligence community underlines the fact that peace is vital and urgent for Israel's national security.

The 40 signatories include ex-army chief Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, former Mossad head Danny Yatom and former Shin Bet directors Yaakov Perry and Ami Ayalon, as well as ex-general and former Labor Party Leader Amram Mitzna.

The plan urges Israel to agree to Palestinian statehood in Gaza and in nearly all of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It proposes dividing control over Jerusalem, with Palestinian neighbourhoods placed under Palestinian control and Jewish areas to be governed by Israel. Palestinian refugees would be offered financial compensation, with a small number permitted to return to Israel.

The plan also calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and its return to Syria in exchange for guarantees of regional security and economic projects.

When Prime Minister Netanyahu outlines his own peace proposal in May before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, the IPI is the script from which he should be reading.

Canadian Friends of Peace Now is a Zionist organization, dedicated to enhancing Israel's security through peace with its neighbours and to supporting the Israeli Peace Now movement. For further information, please call: 416-322-5559