

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

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NEWS

CFPN URGES ISRAELI P.M. NOT TO STRIKE IRAN

TORONTO--[September 13, 2012]--Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) today urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to heed both Israeli public opinion and his security and intelligence establishment and refrain from a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

This is not to deny that Iran poses a serious threat to Israel's security through its determined march toward nuclear status. It is also not to deny that the bellicose Netanyahu rhetoric serves a purpose by keeping pressure on the international community for tougher sanctions against Iran.

The danger is that Mr. Netanyahu, with his apocalyptic sabre-rattling, may paint himself into a corner from which his only political exit is to translate his rhetoric into military action. That would be a tragic mistake.

Mr. Netanyahu fancies himself a present-day Winston Churchill, but Churchill didn't go to war with almost half of his countrymen opposed, his top military and intelligence advisors opposed and his head of state urging him to act only in concert with the U.S.

On a cost/benefit calculus, a unilateral strike against Iran looks like folly. The benefits are dubious: military experts believe Iran's nuclear facilities are too dispersed and too hardened for Israel to set back the nuclear program by more than a couple of years.

On the cost side looms not only retaliation by Iran but also by its ally, Hezbollah, with 50,000 missiles aimed at Israel from Lebanon. The potential for disastrous casualties being inflicted on an ill-prepared Israeli home front cannot be discounted.

Mr. Netanyahu says the U.S. has no "moral right" to flash a "red light" against a unilateral Israeli strike. But what moral right does he have to drag Israel into a war that may still be avoidable and, if not, is better fought alongside, not in defiance of, its most important ally.

For further information, please call 416-322-5559.

CFPN is a Zionist organization that is dedicated to enhancing the State of Israel's security through peace and to supporting Israel's Peace Now movement. CFPN has chapters in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.