CFPN CHEERS RELEASE OF GILAD SHALIT

TORONTO - [October 19, 2011]

Canadian Friends of Peace Now joyously welcomed the return to Israel of captured soldier Gilad Shalit. It is a moment for which Israelis and Jews worldwide have longed. Of course, we are mindful that the cost of his freedom is the release of over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including the perpetrators of horrific acts of terror.

Among Sergeant Shalit’s first words, in an interview with Egyptian television, were: "Of course I miss my family very much. I also miss my friends," he said. "I hope this deal will lead to peace between Palestinians and Israelis and that it will support cooperation between both sides."

His wishes for peace are shared by many. Let us hope that Gilad’s release will be used by intelligent statesmen on both sides to revive a peace process which has been dormant for too long. If the most right-wing Government in Israel’s history could find a basis for agreement with the most anti-Israel militants in the Palestinian nationalist movement — albeit on a limited and lopsided issue — we believe moderates on both sides could agree on much more.

CFPN MOURNS THE LOSS OF HON. BARNEY DANSON

CFPN mourns the death of the Hon. Barney Danson, former Canadian Minister of Defence, decorated World War Two veteran and dedicated supporter of CFPN and a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following his retirement from federal politics, Barney was an active member of the CFPN Toronto Advisory Board and a regular attendee at our events. He will be missed.

CFPN is a Zionist organization that supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.