



Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

*"All of my life, Israel has been a symbol—
a symbol of the triumph of hope and faith."*

*"In the [last 60 years], Israel blossomed into
one of the most successful countries on earth;
a land of ingenuity and enterprise, an oasis of
agricultural genius, a wellspring of fine art and
high culture, a model of democracy. Israel truly
is the 'miracle in the desert.'"*

*"But the source of Israel's strength and success,
in my view, is its commitment to the universal
values of all civilized peoples: freedom,
democracy, human rights and the rule of law."*

*"Canada stands side-by-side with the State
of Israel, our friend and ally in the democratic
family of nations. We have stood with Israel
even when it has not been popular to do so,
and we will continue to stand with Israel, just
as I have always said we would."*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu:

*"On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary
of the establishment of diplomatic ties between
Israel and Canada, I take this opportunity to
express the appreciation of the Government
of Israel and the people of Israel for the deep
and steadfast friendship shared between our
nations. The strong ties that bind us began
with Canada's vote in favour of the UN Partition
Plan of 1947 which recognized the right of the
Jewish People to reestablish its sovereignty
in its historic homeland."*

*Our close relations are based on our shared
values: liberty, democracy, the rule of law,
and respect for human dignity and human
rights. For the past 60 years, both our countries
have cooperated and succeeded in science and
technology, medicine, commerce, agriculture,
jurisprudence, internal security, academia,
and culture. This cooperation has significantly
contributed to the enhancement of our mutual
understanding, and contributed much to the
welfare of both our countries."*

*I look forward to further strengthening
the friendship between our peoples in
the years ahead."*

1 Prime Minister Stephen Harper and
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
Source: Foreign Affairs and International
Trade Canada

