



Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and U.S. President George W. Bush meeting at the White House last month. (Archive)

Last update - 20:04 29/07/2007

Olmert welcomes 'significant improvement' in U.S. military aid

By [Aluf Benn](#) and Barak Ravid, Haaretz Correspondents

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Sunday welcomed an "important and significant improvement" in the amount of American military aid to Israel, which aims to calm fears over an impending major U.S. weapons sale to Saudi Arabia.

Sources in Jerusalem told Haaretz over the weekend that Washington is prepared to increase military aid to Israel in order to ease the defense establishment's concern over the proposed American weapons sale to Riyadh.

Olmert added that Israel appreciates Washington wishes to boost moderate Arab states through weapons sales.

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"We understand the United States' need to assist the moderate Arab states, which are standing in one front with the United States and us in the struggle against Iran," Olmert said, referring to Tehran's nuclear program.

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The prime minister that said he and U.S. President George W. Bush, in talks at the White House last month, agreed Israel would receive \$30 billion in U.S. military aid over the next decade, averaging \$3 billion a year.

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"This is an increase of 25 percent for the military aid to Israel from the United States. I think this is a significant and important improvement of the defense aid to Israel," Olmert told reporters.

According to the New York Times and the Washington Post, the proposed package of advanced weaponry for Saudi Arabia is expected to eventually total \$20 billion. It reportedly includes advanced satellite-guided bombs, upgrades to



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Olmert welcomes 'significant' boost in U.S. military aid

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its fighter jets and new naval vessels. It has reportedly raised concerns in Israel and among its supporters in Congress.

Senior officials who described the package Friday said they believed the administration had resolved those concerns, in part by promising Israel \$30.4 billion in military aid over the next decade, a significant increase over what Israel has received in the past 10 years.

In addition to promising an increase in military aid, the Pentagon is also asking the Saudis to accept restrictions on the range, size and location of the satellite-guided bombs, including a commitment not to store the weapons at air bases located nearby Israeli territory, the officials said.

The package and the possible steps to allay Israel's concerns were described to Congress this week, as the administration aimed to test the reaction on Capitol Hill before entering into final negotiations with Saudi officials.

The Saudis had requested that Congress be told about the planned sale, the officials said, in an effort to avoid the kind of bruising fight that occurred on Capitol Hill in the 1980s over proposed arms sales to the kingdom.

Security officials in Jerusalem called the increase in military aid "an unusual achievement." They added that the increase was the primary objective during Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's most recent visit to the U.S. last month.

"In Olmert's meeting with President Bush in Washington, the president agreed to increase military aid by 25 percent to \$3 billion per annum for the next 10 years," one diplomatic source reported.

The final details about the new aid package to Israel will be worked out during the visit by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns to the region, diplomatic sources said, adding that his visit is slated for mid-August. They said Egypt is also expected to receive additional military aid.

Israel and the U.S. still need to determine how much of the military aid Israel will be allowed to change into shekels, in order to purchase locally manufactured defense systems. Currently, Israel is permitted to funnel 26.75 percent of U.S. military aid toward internal weapons deals.

A senior official in the Bush administration said the sizable increase was a result of Israel's need to replace equipment expended during the Second Lebanon War last summer, as well as to maintain its advantage in advanced weaponry in the face of other regional countries' modernizing their forces.

Israeli officials have made specific requests aimed at eliminating concerns that satellite-guided bombs sold to the Saudis could be used against its territory, administration officials said.

Their major concern is not a full-scale Saudi attack, but the possibility that a rogue pilot armed with one of the bombs could attack on his own or that the Saudi government could one day be overthrown and the weapons could fall into the hands of a more radical regime, U.S. officials explained.

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23:51 Poll: 68% of Palestinians want early elections, 15% favor Hamas

01:05 French FM calls for Iran and Syria to help stabilize Lebanon

21:55 PA, Jordan Premiers discuss latest Mideast peace measures

23:15 Less than 2% of parents tried for harming children are convicted

20:42 Ramon's associate Kunda won't be tried for harassing a witness

22:53 French tourist dies of sunstroke as heat wave claims third victim

21:08 Group of 101 Gazans stranded in Egypt returns to Strip via Israel

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|----|--|-------------------|----------|
| 1. | The vision of a new Middle East... | 03:57 Realist | 29/07/07 |
| 2. | Israel already has RIGHT NOW the one arm it needs - neutron bomb. | 04:19 Ethan | 29/07/07 |
| 3. | business as usual | 04:59 Michael N | 29/07/07 |

4.	US ARMING THE SAUDI ENEMY THAT GAVE US 9-11 ????????)	05:12 VOICE of MOSHIACH)))	29/07/07
5.	How profitable for the Caryile	05:54 Mark Lincoln	29/07/07
6.	US IS CHRISTIAN AND ONLY THE SAVED SHALL SURVIVE	06:15 VOICE OF THE MESSIAH	29/07/07
7.	A new arms race....the US must get every contract!	06:16 True American	29/07/07
8.	When did we ever saw Saudi blood fighting to death ,	06:16 Joseph E .	29/07/07
9.	US WEAPONS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA	06:27 BRUCE	29/07/07
10.	#5, Mark Lincoln	06:46 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
11.	#5 Voice - stifle yourself.	06:48 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
12.	#7 True American (oy vey, another one)	06:49 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
13.	Saudi`s fund the medrasas` killing seminaries	06:51 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
14.	the only nuclear power in the region....	06:54 bashar	29/07/07
15.	Israel Independence	06:58 Dr MI Barton MA. MBA	29/07/07
16.	#4	06:59 bashar	29/07/07
17.	USA, a treat to the world	07:20 Niva dos Santos	29/07/07
18.	#14 bashar	07:27 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
19.	#16 Bashar	07:32 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
20.	#16 I`M NOT WORRIED, SAUDI PEACE WILL COLLAPSE, USA STUPID TO SELL W	07:33 VOICE of MOSHIACH)))	29/07/07
21.	BEN JABO	07:57 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
22.	BEN ONE MORE THOUGHT BEFORE BED	08:01 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
23.	#14,16, bashar	08:04 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
24.	What for? They are trying to give Israel away.	08:07 simcha	29/07/07
25.	19, ben	08:11 bashar	29/07/07
26.	Military Keynesianism	08:19 Rowan Berkeley	29/07/07
27.	22, jon & Ben	08:20 bashar	29/07/07
28.	Re: Ethan in Maimi	08:20 democrat	29/07/07
29.	Jon Feigenbum	08:25 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
30.	23	08:28 bashar	29/07/07
31.	Nothing but a mercenary state	09:16 Yitzhak	29/07/07
32.	#31, Yitzhak: the fallacy in your argument	09:36 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
33.	its good for the usa arms industry its good for george	09:37 victor hardman	29/07/07
34.	Have Olmert , Bush and Saudia slice their wives should they want	09:58 Joseph E .	29/07/07
35.	You`re just jealous because Jews don`t get the bu\$ine\$\$	10:06 keith	29/07/07
36.	# 24 simcha @ Tsfat / Isael	10:07 Joseph E .	29/07/07
37.	This \$20B sale is a retribution against Israel 1000 M16s	10:17 Joseph E .	29/07/07
38.	The worldwide weapons-lobby rules the world	10:19 Swiss (Dino)	29/07/07
39.	# 35 keith , you want bu\$ine\$\$, then	10:28 Joseph E .	29/07/07
40.	A new ME arms race?	10:32 Palestinian Brit	29/07/07
41.	#38, Dino	10:32 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
42.	Great, great Haaretz photo	10:54 Clickfool	29/07/07
43.	A success for the Israeli panhandlers	10:56 Clickfool	29/07/07
44.	# 41 Cipora Julianna Kohn	11:19 Swiss (Dino)	29/07/07
45.	More money!	11:36 Silviene	29/07/07
46.	#23, Cipora	11:40 Silviene	29/07/07
47.	#28, Democrat	11:42 Silviene	29/07/07
48.	#25, Bashar	11:46 Silviene	29/07/07
49.	#42, Clickfool	11:48 Silviene	29/07/07
50.	the deceptive flattery behind `Model State`	11:51 Joseph E .	29/07/07
51.	Meet the carlyle group	12:08 Dav	29/07/07
52.	DANGEROUS IDEA	12:14 MARCO	29/07/07

53.	PM: We understand we have no choice...	12:36 scanadu	29/07/07
54.	What are their motives?	12:43 Paul	29/07/07
55.	Hey Palestinian Brit	12:51 Tzfonit	29/07/07
56.	My preferred alternative....	13:29 Burkhardt	29/07/07
57.	NOTHING GOOD WOULD COME FOR ANYBODY	13:31 indrajaya	29/07/07
58.	Olmert's statement re "strengthening `moderate` Arab states," is	14:17 Reuven	29/07/07
59.	To indrajaya No. 57	14:19 Chris	29/07/07
60.	A strategy of failure	14:35 Jonathan S	29/07/07
61.	Israel, Globalism and the Saudi Role	14:39 Ronnie Wolman	29/07/07
62.	Iranian bombers soon against Israel	14:51 Jonathan S	29/07/07
63.	#59 Chris and Americas support of Israel	15:01 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
64.	#55 Tzfont	15:24 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
65.	Billion Dolar Arm Aid is not a Solution and Reassurance for Jews	15:29 Atilla	29/07/07
66.	#40 A new ME arms race?	15:31 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
67.	OLMERT IS BUSH'S POODLE	15:33 Mitch	29/07/07
68.	BUNCH OF SCHNORRERS!! US MAKES MONEY.	15:33 Yechiel	29/07/07
69.	To those who cry and moan (eg Clickfool) of US aid to Israel	16:03 Conroy	29/07/07
70.	Joel Weltman#54	16:07 Tzfonit	29/07/07
71.	You are crazy extremists	16:13 Mr President	29/07/07
72.	Saudi, Egyptian, Israeli, Jordianian ETC	16:14 Mary	29/07/07
73.	Doesn't anyone notice the difference?	16:18 Veritas	29/07/07
74.	Re-equipping Israeli militarily	16:19 Chris Linthwaite	29/07/07
75.	CIPORA Re TOSSI	16:19 GABE!	29/07/07
76.	Now you know why the Saudis and the Israelis have been talking.	16:26 Toronto's Finest	29/07/07
77.	Troubled by the spin	16:26 Tosefta	29/07/07
78.	I mean WW4	16:26 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
79.	shock, shock	16:38 edgar	29/07/07
80.	Finish the job	16:47 W	29/07/07
81.	# 69 Conroy	16:49 Mary	29/07/07
82.	No one can really claim	16:56 Don	29/07/07
83.	Military aid to Israel - to buy non-American products?	16:58 Sal	29/07/07
84.	Cipora v TOSSI	17:03 GABE1	29/07/07
85.	For Conroy # 69	17:03 Clickfool	29/07/07
86.	#25 bashar - it doesn't matter what "medrasa" means	17:06 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
87.	By the way, Conroy #69	17:07 Clickfool	29/07/07
88.	#45 Silviene	17:12 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
89.	Silviene#46 re Cipora	17:13 2k	29/07/07
90.	Henny-Penny Jonathan S # 62	17:14 Clickfool	29/07/07
91.	#29 Cipora Julianna Kohn	17:15 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
92.	#48 Silviene to Bashar	17:19 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
93.	Ah!!! Gabe Has Arrived!!! Watch out Dino!!!	17:21 Ronnie Wolman	29/07/07
94.	#56 Burkhardt	17:21 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
95.	Atilla # 65 The Arms Race	17:25 Jeff Northridge	29/07/07
96.	#25 -2 Bashar	17:26 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
97.	The DEAL Doesn't Make Sense	17:28 Mark of Lewiston	29/07/07
98.	63 JOEL WELTMAN -wrong.	17:32 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
99.	Click dont fool yourself about Iranian Intentions or wisdom	17:36 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
100.	Ben Check your facts	17:45 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
101.	Sal - That is a joke	17:45 American	29/07/07
102.	GABE 1	17:48 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
103.	Rewarding Arab Nations With Weapons Is A Fatal Mistake	18:03 Tal	29/07/07
104.	to clickfool #78	18:03 mrrad	29/07/07
105.	Troubled by the spin	18:04 Tosefta	29/07/07
106.	Feigenbaum's History 101 duh?	18:04 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
107.	#89 Joel Weltman	18:12 * BEN JABO	29/07/07

108.	Clickfool's rage at US aid to Israel	18:15 Conroy	29/07/07
109.	Don # 73 Plain & Simple Gibberish	18:16 Jeff Northridge	29/07/07
110.	For Joel # 88	18:17 Clickfool	29/07/07
111.	#90 Steve Jobs and the American Secret Weapon	18:17 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
112.	JOEL WELTMAN- YOU read	18:34 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
113.	"Moderate" puppet states	18:34 Magnus	29/07/07
114.	Ah, the Good Old Days	18:34 Tosefta	29/07/07
115.	Boasted US military aid can become a poker game.	18:39 H.H.M	29/07/07
116.	OZER YISROAL BEGHORA.	18:40 DANNY.	29/07/07
117.	With all due respect Clickfool	18:42 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
118.	NEWS FLASH : Ben Jabos Credit Cards are Maxed out	18:45 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
119.	TAL you are correct, BUT.....	18:45 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
120.	NO 13. BEN ABO	18:46 DANNY.	29/07/07
121.	TO 19. BASHAR.	18:51 DANNY	29/07/07
122.	CIPORA JULIANA KOHN I LOVE YOU AND ALL YOUR FAMILY.	18:53 DANNY.	29/07/07
123.	ISRAELIS WRITE HERE THEY WANT TO GIVE THEIR COUNTRY AWAY!!	18:55 Jim	29/07/07
124.	#7: through enough guns at a problem	18:57 Paul Freedman	29/07/07
125.	#110 Weltman (no so wordly)	19:04 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
126.	For Conroy # 100	19:07 Clickfool	29/07/07
127.	Thank you Benjamin Lau for this weeks Torah portion. All should	19:25 Virginia	29/07/07
128.	Feigenbaums primary source: Wikipedia	19:39 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
129.	Bens feeling better he cut up one of his cards.	19:41 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
130.	Tosefta	19:43 Walid	29/07/07
131.	#121-2 Weltman	20:01 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
132.	Weltman - keep on flying	20:03 * BEN JABO	29/07/07
133.	#106 What good old days?	20:07 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
134.	The value of Numbers (Walid #126)	20:24 Tosefta	29/07/07
135.	Ben go take a nap	20:26 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
136.	and iran is buying 250 super-fighters from russia.	20:43 Genesis	29/07/07
137.	Just Take A Good Hard Look	20:48 Yanatan	29/07/07
138.	must be another war on the way,	21:01 Labhras	29/07/07
139.	Joel Weltman, you are very rude	21:05 J.J. Doring	29/07/07
140.	Hi Jeff-95	21:21 Atilla	29/07/07
141.	Olmert, Livni and the "Moderates"	21:22 Tod Zuckerman	29/07/07
142.	Tosefta	21:39 Walid	29/07/07
143.	#91, Jon Feigenbaum	21:44 Cipora Julianna Kohn	29/07/07
144.	Oh, the envy of Clickfool!	22:13 Simon Jenkins	29/07/07
145.	NEWS FLASH JJ Doring finds that he is regular at last	22:52 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
146.	People must realize that WAR is our true human natural state!	23:20 Biologist	29/07/07
147.	Labhras	23:21 Sarah	29/07/07
148.	J.J. Doring - Get Real...Everyone is rude in Talkback.	23:33 x	29/07/07
149.	Bald and Blind!	23:37 Joe	29/07/07
150.	Labhras aka Labhras yep there is a war comin to yur hood soon	23:47 Joel Weltman	29/07/07
151.	Bush sells out America for oil...again	23:51 Devin Leonard	29/07/07
152.	HAARETZ-THIRD TRY/ WELTMAN 128	23:59 JON FEIGENBAUM	29/07/07
153.	Someone loves George Bush.	00:11 Maureen Ann	30/07/07
154.	The Welt (world) that doesn't change, according to J.Weltman #133	00:35 Tosefta (2nd try)	30/07/07
155.	Mr president #71 "We pray 5 times per day and get nothing"	00:36 Johnny	30/07/07
156.	Tosefta #105	00:50 TonyL	30/07/07
157.	Toastefata (approx spelling) on Russian Cooperation	01:09 Joel Weltman	30/07/07

