

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 5:14 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Dov Weisglass on Tom Friedman

Fyi. Worth reading.

From: Rudman, Mara
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Sent: Thu Oct 28 03:24:19 2010
Subject: Fw: Dov Weisglass on Tom Friedman

Jake,
 You shld see, and S may be interested. As you know, Weisglass was key person for Sharon...
 --m

From: Goldberger, Thomas H
To: NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; Walles, Jacob; 'Prem_G._Kumar [redacted] <Prem_G._Kumar [redacted]>
 'Daniel_B._Shapiro [redacted] <Daniel_B._Shapiro [redacted]>
Cc: Cunningham, James B
Sent: Thu Oct 28 01:24:23 2010
Subject: Dov Weisglass on Tom Friedman

The fear of a friend

Thomas Friedman is one of the most important journalists in the world and writes a column for the New York Times. Last week he published a column that was unique in its criticism of Israel for its policies on the Palestinian issue, among others, equating it to a "spoiled child." One of the paper's readers wrote in a letter to the editor: "Israel is not only behaving like a spoiled child, like Friedman said, but like a child who ran away from home, who continues to use to use the family's credit card." In addition, he was interviewed to Channel 2's "Meet the Press."

As much as the content of the column is disturbing – listening and watching him evoked deep concern. During the interview he explained why the Israeli government's conduct is slowly eroding Israel's standing within the United States: a decline in support among government circles, the general public, and the Jewish community, especially the younger generation. The Americans don't understand what Israel wants, don't know where it is heading and doubt its desire for peace. On the other hand, Friedman says, the Palestinian Authority, in its current structure, especially because of the good work in enforcing security and reigning in terror, is worthy more than ever to a genuine Israeli opportunity to reach an agreement.

Friedman is completely aware of the complexities and difficulties associated with reaching an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, but begs Israel to at least "make an effort." He is deeply fearful to the strength of Israel – US relationship: he objects to the insult of the American President manifested through the rejection of an extension to the settlement construction moratorium for two more months, and warns against a deterioration of the critical relationship between Israel and its only friend in the world.

Friedman was a bit distraught, emotional, and sometimes even angry and it was clear how much he is hurting because of the current situation. His words are twice as harsh because they were said by a friend and someone who does not hide his deep love which will be "unchanged" to the state of Israel.

You are forewarned: Friedman should be taken seriously. Very seriously. Not only because he is an important and influential man, but mainly for his connections, knowledge, understanding, and vast experience. Friedman has direct contact with decision makers, a rare knowledge of what is happening in Israel, the region, and the US, academic training coupled by decades of research, involvement, and deep journalistic observations, from near and from afar, on what is happening in the region.

Friedman has a warm and tight relationship with Israel from his youth. It would be difficult to write off the severity of his words as coming from a "self-loathing Jew." His words should evoke much concern. (We) need to listen to him well, listen and change. As soon as possible."

From: Hoyer, Kurt J
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 7:55 PM
To: Cunningham, James B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Hale, David M; NEA-Press-DL
Cc: Olsin-Wlndecker, Hilary S; Otto, Jeffrey L; Baldwin, Virginia E; Brooks, Judith A
Subject: Fw: Weisglass on Tom Friedman

Avida translated this article earlier. Apologies for the delay in sending it on.

From: Landau, Avida
To: Hoyer, Kurt J
Cc: Feldboy, Yael
Sent: Wed Oct 27 13:02:33 2010
Subject: Weisglass on Tom Friedman

Translated from today's Yediot.

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