

THE ISRAEL PROJECT

CONFERENCE CALL WITH TAL BRODY

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ALAN ELSNER: Hello and welcome. My name is Alan Elsner and I'm the communications director for The Israel Project. On behalf of our entire team, I'm very pleased to welcome you to today's briefing from Tal Brody, who will be talking about his past as a basketball player and his present as an ambassador, roving ambassador for Israel. Today's briefing is on the record.

Now, for those of you who don't know, The Israel Project is an international nonprofit educational organization that provides journalists and policymakers with accurate information about Israel. The Israel Project is not related to any government or government agency. We have offices here in Washington, where I'm speaking to you from, and in Jerusalem.

Our team of 44 experts and former journalists is always ready to help you get the facts you need to cover the Middle East, so please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help you in any way. Our website has information in 10 languages – English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Turkish, Chinese, Portuguese and Japanese – and you can also follow us on Twitter @israelproject.

Now, without further ado, I would like to introduce you to our speaker today. Tal Brody is an American-born Israeli basketball player. He was appointed as a goodwill ambassador for the Israeli foreign ministry in July of 2010, and in this role, Mr. Brody will assist with Israel's international public diplomacy efforts.

A little about Mr. Brody's distinguished past: He graduated from the University of Illinois and was picked 13th in the NBA draft of 1965 by the Baltimore Bullets. Brody led the USA team to a gold medal at the Maccabiah Games and immediately afterwards was approached by Maccabi Tel Aviv managers to join their team and to help Israeli basketball to a new level.

He took up the challenge, played for Maccabi Tel Aviv until 1980, won 10 domestic championships and six cups, and was captain of the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team from 1970 to '77. He led Maccabi Tel Aviv to its first and Israel's first European championship in 1977, which I can attest was an absolutely unforgettable moment for Israel and for everybody who witnessed it.

From 1970 to 1979, Mr. Brody was CEO for Sports United Limited, an export-import company for sports equipment. After that, he owned an independent insurance agency for provident funds, pension, health and education funds until 2008.

Mr. Brody still coaches and gives basketball clinics all around Israel. He has reached more than 200,000 Israeli children. In 1985 he began building one of the largest basketball schools in the world in Herzliya, and today 14,000 youth participate in all sports at that center.

Mr. Brody is also chairman of Spirit of Israel, which raises money for children at risk and their vital human needs, and it helps at-risk, impoverished, orphaned and underprivileged children. And as I said, last July, Mr. Brody was appointed a goodwill ambassador for the Israeli ministry of foreign affairs.

Now, I would like to turn it over to Tal Brody to make an introduction, after which we will have questions. Tal, please.

TAL BRODY: First of all, Alan, thank you for having me on the program. I'm very familiar with The Israel Project and the work that you're doing. As far as being appointed Israel's first goodwill ambassador, it's an honor to me that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has chosen a sportsman. And coming into North America on my first swing, I really enjoy the speaking engagements, the meetings. It's very interactive.

When we were in Miami, speaking to various different groups, one of the groups was fundraising for the Maccabiah Games that are going to be taking place in Israel in 2013. And within your introduction, a very important part of my life is the fact that because of the Maccabiah Games, I received my first opportunity to go to Israel and to receive that challenge. And this morning, by a visit to the Washington Wizards practice, where I saw Ernie Grunfeld, the general manager, and I was sorry Abe Pollin who just recently passed away – Abe Pollin and Buddy Jeannette, who were with the Baltimore Bullets at that time.

And they're the ones – after being 13th in the draft – the ones, basically, that gave me the permission, when I said, look, I'm a Jewish kid from Trenton, New Jersey. They got me an apartment in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins University. And I said, look, I'd like to go to Israel. I've been invited to join the U.S. Maccabi team and it would be the first time in my life that I can see Israel, go out of the United States. And they did let me go and that's when everything, all my goals in life changed.

All of a sudden, my history, my faith, my culture just opened up before my eyes. And I saw that it was – you know, basketball is a small story in relation to the large story of being part of Israel. And that's when I decided to take up that challenge.

And since that challenge we've really come a long way, winning the European basketball championship five times. We were in the finals 12 times. We're the only team – two years ago, I was invited to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to represent Maccabi Tel Aviv, and as we were being exhibited as the first team honored, outside of the United States, to have an exhibit in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. So it's been a nice ride; I enjoy it.

And now I take that challenge as Israel's first ambassador of goodwill. And as I said, I started out in Miami with various organizations and groups. It was very interesting, at the Boston visit, being hosted by Alan Dershowitz at Harvard University and interacting with a very special class of 20 students that he had for about two hours.

And then visiting Northeastern University, and very interesting at the University of Massachusetts – hearing from the various student bodies how they feel about Israel, and even, a little bit, being disappointed about what they have to go against in the propaganda that's on the campuses against Israel.

And I think as I told you, I was very happy to hear in the news, in the morning, that Israel – in a debate that was in Cambridge College, Cambridge University in England – the debate was,

“Israel is a rogue state.” And the Israeli debate team actually won and 73 percent of the students said that Israel won the debate, in defending Israel. And I think that’s a good start. And if all the students in the United States would have an open-minded and unbiased position where they could just study the information that is set against Israel, I think they would see quite a different – they would have a quite different outlook.

MR. ELSNER: Thank you. We’ve had a number of questions about the past and I want to get to those, but before we do that, please, let me ask you, what exactly is your new job? How do you see yourself doing it, and what are the main challenges?

MR. BRODY: Well, as I said, it’s as a goodwill ambassador. It’s basically presenting Israel – the many things that people don’t know. Like, I’m on technology today, and I put out news feeds on Facebook and the Internet on my daily life in Israel, on the things that they don’t hear about – whether it’s traveling around Israel, whether it’s family life in Israel, whether it’s the cultural life. Like, I was at the Jewish People’s Museum before I left and there was an exhibition of the various Sukkot that are all over the world, whether it’s in Ethiopia or in Georgia or in Russia or whether it’s in Europe, and part of our cultural life. Or whether it’s the Simchat Torah to see the celebrations – like Independence Day celebrations. And so it’s a beautiful life in Israel.

We’re very concerned about peace. It’s so unjustified, the article that was in TIME Magazine about the – the way that they wrote the article. We have a right to live our lives. And the fact that they write such a slanted article to make it seem like we’re boosting and we’re not concerned about peace, it really hurts – especially when you’re living there. For those that could understand English and read that article, it’s very disappointing. It hurts.

MR. ELSNER: There is a campaign that’s been going on for many years, but that seems to be more and more prevalent, to delegitimize Israel, to expel Israel from international bodies, to prevent Israelis from going to different countries, or risking being arrested, to boycott Israeli products and Israeli organizations, Israeli academic organizations. How can Israel respond to this?

MR. BRODY: Well, if you go back in history, I think that if you look at it today, in Israel, we were attacked more than five times. We had two intifadas. Israel responded to a situation; Israel didn’t instigate the situation, from the day that Israel was born. And when you look at the way that terrorism – when people said, like, with terrorism – Israel, it’s not right not to let Palestinians have free movement.

But if you take a look at the intifada since 2000, we lost over 1,100 Israeli lives – men, women and children – because of terrorism. We had over 7,800 people that were mutilated with ball bearings and nails from different suicide bombings in hotels, on busses – without even any relation to whether it’s children or men, women or grandmothers or grandfathers. So the fact that the fence is there – the temporary fence; it’s like a Lego fence which can be taken apart at any minute once there isn’t any terrorism, or let’s say, once peace is there.

And the fact that we have the freedom to live – nobody seems to recognize that we have the freedom to live freely in our own country, and we want freedom of movement. I think with the examples of the American forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, you see exactly what happens when you don't have a checkpoint.

If you don't have a checkpoint, then a suicide bomber comes in; he goes into a hotel or a bus or a marketplace. And you see, in Iraq, you have 50 to 100 people who are blown apart at the same instant. We don't want that to continue in Israel because we've had it since 2000.

So when you say about delegitimizing Israel, demonizing Israel, sanctioning Israel, boycotting Israel – boycotting, I don't think, succeeds because Israel is exporting and there are countries which are letting imports come into Israel. Yes, in Scandinavia, there were a few incidents where they boycotted – or, they didn't let the ships from Israel come in. But I think it hurts them more than it hurts us.

And I think we're holding our own in a world that doesn't understand Israel, a world that seems to be listening to Ahmadinejad more than it's listening to Israel. If you're talking about delegitimizing, you have rules against incitement for genocide. I don't understand. Christians United for Israel is doing fabulous work in standing up for Israel, and I don't understand, myself, mainly because I'm so involved in it. Because I read the English newspapers and I listen to what's going on BBC and Sky and I hear CNN and I hear FOX, and I try to look at everything in an objective way.

But when I hear things which are not true – when you're living in a climate where they only say one side of something – you know, they talk about Cast Lead, but they forget about, hey, wait a minute, we had over 10,000 Qassam rockets that indiscriminately go into Israel, that any day could fall in a kindergarten and kill men, women and children. But when it does kill an Israeli or wound a few Israelis, it's not big news because you have 50 people, 25 people in Iraq or Afghanistan that are getting killed.

So these numbers aren't big. But they forget about the psychological damage that is done to a third of Israel that is living in Ashdod, in Ashkelon, in Sderot and all the areas around that – that is done to the men, women and children. You have women that send their children separately to school every morning: one in a bus, one by driving. I mean, you have children in first grade, in kindergarten, that have 15 seconds to find a wall to take cover – practically every day since the beginning of the year. We had 165 Qassam rockets.

But I haven't seen one word – not in The New York Times, not in the Los Angeles paper, not in Chicago Tribune, not on the BBC or Sky or anything. I haven't heard one word about the 165 rockets that are coming in. It's like if New Jersey was sending Qassam rockets into Manhattan. I mean, it's ridiculous. That's the way our situation is. The border is very close; one to the other.

MR. ELSNER: What's your explanation for that? Why do you think these news outlets are not reporting it?

MR. BRODY: Well, because we're the Davids, and all of the sudden, they've put us into the situation as the Goliaths. And it's not so. When they talk about all these flotillas and all these things about Gaza, they don't really tell about the good side of Gaza: that there are trucks coming in every day from Israel.

If we don't make this blockade and ships are coming into Israel – you had the Kareen A (ph) that had so much ammunition it could supply an army, if our commandos didn't get it in the middle of the sea and capture this boat. Even the women – you had a women's ship on the flotilla. They wanted to go – a human rights boat to go into the Gaza Strip. I said, let them go in.

Let the women see how it is living under Hamas and the Sharia law, and then let them come to Israel to see where you have human rights for women, for lesbians or gays. You have everything that the liberal left – what their flagship programs are, what they stand for, what their philosophy is for. That's what Israel stands for. That's why I can't understand it.

MR. ELSNER: I have a question here from Michael Weiser of the Weiser Family Foundation. He's located in Bannockburn, Illinois. He says, "How can Israel use basketball, and sports in general as a tool of diplomacy?"

MR. BRODY: Well, I think sport is a natural thing as public diplomacy. Like the United States, their first relationship with China was with ping pong. Our first relationship with Russia was with basketball. We played the Russian team in 1977, our first championship, after years that they wouldn't shake hands or exchange flags with us. They wouldn't want to come to Tel Aviv to play us. They did let us go to Moscow to play.

And during the 1977 championship, it was the same Russian team that beat the United States team in 1976 in the Olympics, so they didn't want to drop out this time from the European championship. And so they told the European federation that they would play us, but in a small town, Virton, in Belgium, so that nobody would take notice of the game.

Well, little did they know that the game was broadcast back by satellite to Israel, and every Jew in Israel, in Europe would try to get to this game. There were more people outside the stadium than there were inside the stadium. And we won the game 91-79, and that's when – after the game, out of excitement, that I said "we are on the map; we are staying on the map, not only in sports, but in everything."

And little did I know how much that meant to the country until Prime Minister Rabin met us at a special reception. The president's wife, Katzir – President Katzir's wife met us at the airport with 3,000 Israelis. And then the border police said that we had to get into the armored cars in order to go to Tel Aviv. So we said, what about our luggage, our cars? They said, leave everything here. You have over 150,000 people waiting for you in the Rabin Square.

And not only did we pass the Russians that year, but we went on to Yugoslavia. And where sport won over politics – Yugoslavia didn't have any relations with Israel but they let two jumbos and three 707s and 15 busloads of Jews from Europe come to Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Five thousand people came to cheer us on when we won our first European basketball championship in 1977. And then they had 200,000 people and the police said they can't have the celebration in the middle of Tel Aviv, so they moved it out to the national park outside the city.

So when you're talking about sport, sport goes further than any politics can go. And as I said, sportsmen are in situations every day. Even in China and in South America, when we played the tournament, China didn't want anything to do with Israel, but in the world championships in San Paolo, they had to go out on the floor against an Israeli team, exchange flags with the Israeli team. The same thing in the Asian Games that we played in Tehran during the time of the shah: North Korea, which didn't have any relations with Israel, had to come up and play us.

I mean, it's a shame when sports teams like Iran—in different championships that are coming up in Europe, they'd rather drop out of the tournament rather than come up against an Israeli team. That's a special situation, but in general, sports go over politics in all international competition.

And even in Dubai, when Shahar Pe'er – she's number 13 in tennis, and a great Israeli tennis player. When they didn't let her go into Dubai, many of the other players in the ITTP, decided also that they're not going to play, or they're not going to participate. And then in the next round of tennis that they had in Dubai, they let our two great double players go to Dubai and play in the tournament.

So basically, even with the Arabic countries, even when there's a Palestinian basketball team that has an Israeli coach. So I think if Iran and Ahmadinejad stay out of their business, I think maybe, someday, there'll be a chance for peace in the Middle East.

MR. ELSNER: Actually, it was interesting to note that you talked about playing the Soviet team in the semifinals, CSKA Moscow, in 1977, and then going to Yugoslavia for the final. And there is no Yugoslavia anymore and there is no Soviet Union anymore, but there is still an Israel.

MR. BRODY: That's right. We are still on the map. (Chuckles.)

MR. ELSNER: You kind of answered that, but let me just ask it in more direct terms. Because Julie Davis, who is the editor of something called Chutzpah magazine, out of Redding, Connecticut, wants to know whether that famous statement, "we're on the map," was it spontaneous or had you figured it out in advance?

MR. BRODY: Well, for sure, it was spontaneous. First of all, that Russian team, as I said, beat the United States team in the previous Olympics. And we just saw a scouting film that they just beat Real Madrid, in Madrid, which was one of the best teams in Europe. So many people in Israel didn't think we even had a chance, so you don't prepare speeches even before you win a game. (Chuckles.)

And it came out of the heart and it came out of the atmosphere which was going on in that little, small stadium, where everybody was singing “Havainu Shalom Aleichem” and “Am Yisrael Chai” and after the game, coming around and dancing the Hora. And it was just a beautiful atmosphere, of the spirit, of the excitement, of our little Davids, our little country coming against the big bear at that time and beating an unbelievable, good Russian team. So that excitement was just unbelievable and it just came out of my heart.

MR. ELSNER: Can you tell us a little bit about Spirit of Israel and your activities there, what it does?

MR. BRODY: The Spirit of Israel – I’m chairman of what they call the Spirit of Israel – (in Hebrew). About 12 years ago, I was at a UJA conference. Now it’s UJC. Now it just changed – again, the name, it’s the – they changed the name to United North American Jewish Communities. They just changed the name again.

And I was sitting in a conference, meeting with the founders and donors, Laura Lauder and many donors. And they said that we are really working hard for Israel, trying to raise money for programs in Israel; what are the Israelis doing for themselves?

That message, I took back to Israel. And ever since then, the chairman of the Jewish Agency – now it’s Natan Sharansky – flagged a program for raising money from Israelis, after we did a tele-mesir on the telephone on 10 different topics, that the Israelis would give money to a charitable organization.

So first came up was the fathers that built the country; don’t throw them to the dogs at – (in Hebrew) – at old age. We raised money for one year, for people that are living in a home-care situation.

The second was with children at risk. And they asked me to lead the program on the TV, the advertisements. And because of the popularity and the success of the program that – it’s already over 10 years – the program – and we have over 300,000 children at risk in Israel. We have over 800,000 families that are under the minimum-wage survival limit.

So it’s a program in which we raise money only from Israelis for projects that Israelis believe are important. So we do our part, and I have to say that the Israelis do contribute to so many various charitable organizations, and we have over 26,000 charitable organizations in a country of 7.5 million people.

MR. ELSNER: Mark Burns, who is the general manager of Great News Radio, also in Illinois, would like to know, what are your goals over the next five to 10 years? And how can we help with Spirit of Israel?

MR. BRODY: Well, first of all, I see that you have a lot of Illinois people. That’s great. I enjoyed my years at University of Illinois. In 1961 through ’65, we were third in the nation, and one time we took the Big Ten championship. We had great teams out there and I loved playing in that stadium of 16-plus-thousand people.

And my goals are, basically – I decided four years ago, when I reached the age of 65, I want to give the last third of my life to the state of Israel. And that's what I've been doing for the last two years, as far as public diplomacy unofficially. And I'm very happy that the government came to me – the foreign minister and the deputy prime minister came to me and asked me to take on this position.

And I'm very proud, as I said, as a sportsman to take on this position, and I would like to continue doing it. I do it officially or unofficially; it doesn't matter to me. But I think it's important and I think, basically, every Jew and every citizen in Israel is basically an ambassador for Israel these days because it's a tough environment out there.

As I said, we're very lucky we've got friends like Christians United for Israel, and we have friends in the African-American communities and also in some of the Hispanic communities. It's good. We had Amare Stoudemire that came to Israel, looking for his Jewish roots. And maybe after he finishes his career with the New York Knicks, he'll come play a few seasons with us. We had Alan Houston and Jerome Williams and Chris Wallace from the Memphis Grizzlies, and Charlie Smith from the Globetrotters, and Anthony Bonner.

These guys are NBA veterans that came to Israel. And to show you how sport is so popular in Israel, their first reception was with President Shimon Peres at his residence in Jerusalem. You know it's fabulous how they relate to sport in Israel. It's a sport-loving country. And as I go around the United States, very few people realize that sport is so popular in Israel. Even our Junior Olympics team now – out of 200 countries in the Junior Olympics, 200 countries, Israel took the 15th place.

MR. ELSNER: In basketball?

MR. BRODY: No, not in basketball. In taekwondo, in various sports – in judo, we're very good; in windsurfing, we're very good; in water sports. And the fact that Israel is in the 15th place, it's an unbelievable achievement for us. And I hope that's the way we're going to continue to go in the future.

MR. ELSNER: Leigh Rogoff, who wrote to us from Georgia, wants to know, will you try to be elected again to the Knesset on the Likud list?

MR. BRODY: Well, when I gave – Prime Minister Netanyahu, when he recruited me to come into the world of public – you know, public. He didn't ask me if I wanted to go into politics, and he was smart. He asked me if Israel is important to me. And that's the way I more or less got entangled.

It took about a year-and-a-half before I decided to wear some sort of political title to go to the primaries. You have to be – I guess – they look at you as a politician.

And I didn't decide until I went to the United States and talked with Bill Bradley, who was in my same year in the college all-stars together. And Bill ran for – he was a senator in New

Jersey; he ran for the presidency against Al Gore. And he gave me an excellent advice. He says, Tal, if you want to know if you can go into public diplomacy – and I feel that you could be very good for Israel in that – I think when you go back to Israel, you have to ask everybody that's on the opposite side of Netanyahu, from the very far left to the middle.

And that's what I did. I asked the people from Meretz. I asked the people from the Labor Party and all the various parties. And everyone said they think it's important that people that are not politicians try to come into public service. And I feel that I've always been in public service. (Chuckles.) I don't think it's a big change for me.

And this is something which – I love Israel; I love my life in Israel. I'm 45 years in Israel, married in Israel, have children in Israel and I have five grandchildren today in Israel. We have a large family from Trenton, New Jersey, over in Israel – (chuckles) – that is growing. So I feel it's something natural. I don't feel uncomfortable with it. And I feel I'm just talking as I see my life in Israel. And that's why I say it disturbs me when I hear these other things and demonizing Israel and the way it is because it's not true.

And it hurts me to hear what's going on in the campuses, and as I say, I'm very happy that I was able to be received on those campuses. And nobody walked out of the classroom. Everybody listened to what I have to say.

And you know, one of the meetings – I'll tell you one of the most disturbing things— when I went into the classroom, right before that, I heard that there was a meeting that night on the campus, something about apartheid – and apartheid in relation to Israel.

Now, if any country in the world is so far from that title, in relation to Israel, it's Israel. And I gave them my situation when I was coming out of high school. I was recruited by 40 different colleges. The first college I went to see, was in the South – North Carolina – North Carolina State. And I was shocked when I got off the plane when I saw that there were water fountains for blacks, water fountains for whites; bathrooms for blacks, bathrooms for whites. That was my first shock when I saw what is segregation. And that's not Israel.

Then, my second experience was when I was in the American Army. We had a soldier, a couple of soldiers – one soldier in particular who was with us. He had a Purple Heart and he was injured in Vietnam. We went to a restaurant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and as we sat down in the restaurant, ready to order, came up to us a few guys and said that they don't serve blacks in the restaurant. And we said if you're not serving our friend, then we're walking out.

The third incident that is so far from Israel being Israel is when I was in South Africa. I gave a basketball clinic in Soweto. Now, Soweto has one basketball court at that time. Arthur Ash donated the money for 4 million blacks in Soweto. And as I walked around South Africa, I saw what is apartheid.

So you take a country like Israel that at certain periods of time, that is taking up to 1,000 Africans from Rwanda, from Darfur – people that are in Muslim countries that are brought up to hate Israel – that when they're chopping off their heads and when they're getting slaughtered, the

only country that they know that they can take refuge in is Israel. If they pass Sudan and they get through Egypt without being killed and they get to the Israeli border, they know they have Israeli soldiers with water and with food.

Now, like every country, we have immigration rules. We can't take the whole world into Israel. So those sometimes are in detention camps until they're getting a plane ticket and going to another country. Some that go around the system; they find work and they try to stay in Israel and some succeed. But still, we don't shoot them at the borders. We're not apathetic, you know, as far as I hear on the campuses.

So when I was talking at the University of Massachusetts, exactly what I told the students. I said, how could it be that you're having an apartheid event against Israel, when Israel is probably the most humanistic and farthest from what is apartheid? Which I know, but you don't know. You know, because I saw and I lived and I have been through that period of time. I know what is segregation; I know what is apartheid.

MR. ELSNER: Incidentally, Leigh Rogoff says her father, Joseph Rogoff, was your basketball coach at Trenton, New Jersey, JCC. And her mother, Edith Rogoff, worked for your family's business prior to marrying her father. So it's a small world.

MR. BRODY: It's a very small world. Trenton takes, the world takes. But I always remember my history from Trenton, playing in the Jewish community center in Trenton, and I'm very proud of it; very fond of it. I mean, it gave me my base and my education and my basketball coach.

I still call him by his – "Coach". I never could call him by his first name. Even I saw him from time to time when I brought a team from Israel after the Lebanese war to tour the United States. It was a surprise. They brought Fred Price, my high-school coach – and I can't call him Fred. I still call him coach. (Chuckles.)

MR. ELSNER: When are we going to see an Israeli team win a basketball medal at the Olympics?

MR. BRODY: Well, in the Olympics, we have a tough go through Europe.

But the fact – as I said, our achievements put us into the Basketball Hall of Fame, and the fact that we're able to go up against the New York Knicks, where we had 18,600 people at Madison Square Garden. And when I did the press conference with Isiah Thomas, I told Isiah Thomas, I said, Isiah – this was two years ago – I said, don't be disappointed nobody's going to be cheering for the New York Knicks. So he said, Tal, at that period of time, nobody is cheering for the New York Knicks. (Laughter.)

But anyway, he said something very interesting. He said, I want to tell you something, and he told the newspaper people and myself – he said when I was in Israel with George Davis and the owner of the Detroit Pistons, I put a note at the Wailing Wall. And two years straight, we won the NBA championships. And that was really great.

MR. ELSNER: Tal, I want to thank you very much for spending this time with us, and I wish you all the best in your new job. If you have any more closing comments, please.

MR. BRODY: Well, it's not a job; it's an honor.

MR. ELSNER: Your new capacity, your new role.

Would you like to say anything else before we sign off?

MR. BRODY: Well, as I said, if anybody's listening out there, and if they have children – it's not a one-man job. Everybody out there, if they believe in Israel, they have what to do, and put out the right education, the right information. And I think everybody, if they educate themselves as far as information – whether it's historical, whether it's legal – I know that Israel cannot be delegitimized.

MR. ELSNER: Thank you very much, Tal Brody. And to everyone that joined us, thank you for joining us. I urge everyone to take a look at our website, which is being updated constantly. It's www.theisraelproject.org. And also follow us on Twitter, as I said, @israelproject. And with that, until the next conference call that we hold, I wish everyone a very good day, and Shalom, good-bye, from Washington.

(END)