

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International's more than 100,000 members and supporters, we congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of State. We are confident that your strong leadership at the Department of State will greatly further the United States foreign policy objectives and principles that we ardently support.

B'nai B'rith shares the deep conviction, which you articulated during your Senate confirmation hearing, that "Iran has been on the march and has paid too low a price for its dangerous behavior." We further concur with you that "Iran's activities in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon threaten the very existence of Israel, and the global reach of Hezbollah threatens us right here in the homeland."

We also welcome your leadership on one of the greatest and most intractable issues of our time, the Arab-Israeli conflict. We take comfort in the knowledge that Israel, the Middle East's only democracy and a country that has battled terror and aggression since its independence, will have a staunch and sympathetic ally in the U.S. Secretary of State. B'nai B'rith also looks forward to continuing its cooperation with the State Department on its vital work in combating global anti-Semitism and in promoting Holocaust restitution and memory. We have no doubt that the struggle for progress on these issues will continue to enjoy the firm backing of the State Department during your tenure.

Accordingly, we strongly urge that the State Department promptly appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. The need for this position to be filled is greater now than ever, as anti-Semitic manifestations are on the rise around the globe, across the ideological spectrum. The security of Jewish communities would be greatly enhanced by having the U.S. government appoint a Special Envoy, thereby prioritizing the issue of anti-Semitism and placing America's leadership and moral authority behind it.

Mr. Secretary, please accept our ongoing support for the crucial objectives that you have so forthrightly and eloquently articulated throughout your career. We commend you for your unswerving and courageous commitment to the realization of these worthy goals, and we look forward to maintaining communication with you and your department about them in the months and years to come.

Respectfully,

Gary P. Saltzman
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President & CEO