

NEWSLETTER



CFI Annual Business Lunch with Rt. Hon. William Hague MP, the Foreign Secretary.

The CFI Annual Business Lunch took place on the 25th November 2013. Keynote speakers the Rt. Hon. William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and H.E Ambassador Daniel Taub, addressed over 520 guests including 400 key businesspeople and 120 Conservative Parliamentarians. The Foreign Secretary spoke at length about flourishing bilateral ties between the UK and Israel, and Israel's security concerns.

"CFI was the first political organisation that I joined as a teenager; in 1976, 37 years ago. I have been supported and sustained by friendships within CFI, or overlapping with CFI, throughout my career in public life... I am proud of the stronger links and intensified cooperation that we have built with Israel since this coalition government came to power. Britain's bilateral relationship with Israel is stronger, warmer and more full of promise than ever." Rt. Hon. William Hague MP, Foreign Secretary, November 2013

DELEGATIONS

Feb 2013

CFI led a delegation of four Conservative MPs, a Conservative MSP, and a Welsh Assembly Member to Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The group were given a first-hand opportunity to discuss Israel's new political landscape following the previous month's General Election.



July 2013

CFI led a security-orientated delegation to Israel with the former Defence Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Liam Fox MP. During his visit, Liam met with several high-level Israeli ministers, as well as Israel's Ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer. Liam received a tour of the security barrier, and visited an IDF base where he saw a counter-terrorism demonstration.



Oct 2013

A tailored delegation was arranged by CFI for James Morris MP to learn about Israel's world-renowned cyber-security industry. James saw first-hand, Israel's groundbreaking cyber security solutions and efforts to protect critical national infrastructure. During his visit, James met with some of Israel's experts in the field, as well as pioneering cyber security start-ups.



Nov 2013

CFI led a delegation of four MPs, and five Parliamentary Candidates to Israel and the PA. The group visited the Knesset, and Israel's northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, where they received security briefings from the IDF. The delegation explored Israel's start-up scene in Tel Aviv and received briefings on peaceful coexistence, as well as PA incitement against Israel.



CAMPAIGNS



MPs hold the Government to account on Iran

In the wake of the P5+1 agreement with Iran, fifteen Conservative MPs raised concerns with the Foreign Secretary, during a statement to the House of Commons. As a direct result of CFI briefing, MPs asked questions on issues as far-ranging as the Iranian regime's support for terrorism, clandestine nuclear activities, and the terms of the interim agreement.



MPs regularly speak up for Israel in oral and written questions

MPs regularly stand up in Parliament for Israel to ask questions on issues such as Israel's regional security concerns, Palestinian incitement and hate education, the importance of direct negotiations, Israel's peace initiatives, the importance of rejecting terrorist groups and the Iranian nuclear threat.



MPs campaign for an end to Palestinian Incitement

MPs continue to receive regular briefing from CFI on the important issue of Palestinian Incitement. Parliamentarians have been successful in campaigning to ensure greater transparency of British aid to the Palestinian Authority as well as pushing the British Government to prioritise incitement. Parliamentarians have also penned several articles on the subject for online media.

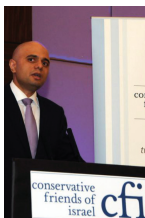


MPs participate in Westminster Hall debates

Philip Hollobone MP led a Westminster Hall Debate on Iran's nuclear enrichment programme, with several MPs contributing in support of Israeli concerns. Hollobone asserted that if the Iranian regime 'had the ability to manufacture a warhead and the ballistic capability to deliver it on Israel, it might well decide to take the chance to wipe out 7 million Israelis.'



NOTABLE EVENTS



**January
to
June
2013**

This year CFI hosted a series of events for supporters with key Conservative MPs including Cabinet Office Minister, the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP and Nick Boles MP, Minister for Planning. In May, CFI arranged lunches for supporters to meet with Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers MP and Treasury Minister, David Gauke MP. The following month, CFI held a reception for MPs and supporters with outgoing Governor of the Bank of Israel, Stanley Fisher. CFI also hosted a breakfast for parliamentarians to meet with Israeli venture capitalist Jonathan Medved, and arranged a breakfast for CFI supporters with speaker Treasury Minister, Sajid Javid MP.



**July
to
October
2013**

Over 100 CFI members and 60 Conservative MPs attended the CFI Annual Members Reception at the House of Commons in July. The reception was addressed by Nick Boles MP, Minister for Planning and H.E. Daniel Taub, Ambassador of Israel. CFI also arranged for Ambassador Taub to have a private briefing with 20 Conservative MPs. In October, CFI maintained a strong presence at Conservative Party Conference. Former Defence Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Liam Fox MP was the guest of honour at CFI's Annual Conference Reception attended by over 400 Conservative Parliamentarians, activists, and supporters. CFI also sponsored a community engagement event addressed by Prime Minister David Cameron.



**November
to
December
2013**

In addition to the CFI Annual Business Lunch, CFI jointly coordinated the visit of Hezbollah expert Dr Matthew Levitt to London. The visit included a cross-party lunch briefing in Parliament with over 20 Conservative MPs and a series of meetings with Government officials. CFI also coordinated a cross-party lunch briefing in Parliament Dr Hagai Agmon-Snir on Israeli-Palestinian medical coexistence. As the year drew to a close, CFI arranged for Conservative MPs to meet with Dan Meridor, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, who spoke at length on the subjects of Iran, the Middle East peace process, and Syria.