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January 9, 2009

H.E. Mirek Topolánek
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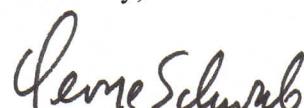
Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

It was distressing to read of the call on the European Union on January 7, 2009 by a coalition of major aid agencies from over ten countries to suspend any further enhancement of EU relations with Israel until Israel agrees to a comprehensive cease fire and provides unimpeded humanitarian access.

The National Committee on American Foreign Policy considers it unacceptable to equate the defensive actions by Israeli forces in Gaza in recent days with the unprovoked indiscriminate attacks by Hamas rockets and missiles aimed at civilians in Israel for a period of years. It is equally inappropriate to suggest that the actions of the adversaries can be regarded from the standpoint of moral equivalence.

Everyone is rightfully troubled by civilian casualties and by the impact of hostilities on the humanitarian situation in the Middle East. But the coalition of aid organizations must be aware that it was Hamas that broke the cease fire in the area, and therefore must be held responsible for the casualties and damage resulting from Israel's actions in defense of its civilians against the relentless assaults on them by Hamas rockets and missiles. The EU must reject the call by the aid agencies to suspend the EU-Israel upgraded process. Hamas must not be allowed to secure a victory as a result of its aggressive behavior. This would be tantamount to punishment of Israel for its defense of its population. The EU must not engage in appeasement of the aggressor as European countries did in the Munich Agreement of 1938.

Sincerely,


George D. Schwab
President