

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the great democratic Jewish State of Israel, one of our strongest partners for peace and stability, for its 66 years of independence.

Since its founding on May 14, 1948, Israel has been a beacon of democracy and prosperity and America's stalwart ally in the often tumultuous Middle East.

As the historic home of the Jewish people, Israel has stood for hope in the face of persecution, freedom from oppression, and opportunity for its diverse population.

We were the first nation to recognize Israel's independence, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue building stronger bonds between the United States and Israel.

I am fully committed to our special relationship, which is based upon our shared values and common interests. Mr. Speaker, on this joyous day, I am honored to congratulate Israel on its 66th Independence Day.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month, a month where we step up our efforts to raise awareness for mental health and work to remove the stigma of seeking help for mental illness.

This issue is very close to my heart, as I worked in the New York State Assembly to pass Timothy's Law, which provides parity in mental health coverage in my home State.

We work in a very divided environment here, Mr. Speaker, in Washington, but one of the few things I believe we can all agree on is the need to focus more on individuals and families that struggle with mental illness. That means providing better resources, more robust programs, enhanced coordination, and a more comprehensive mental health national program.

Mental illness affects all ages, all races, tax brackets, and political ideologies, and our response to mental illness must be as comprehensive as the group of people it affects. We can only do this by joining together, reflecting in our budget our commitment to overcoming the challenges mental illnesses pose, and passing the Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act, legislation that my colleagues and I introduced just today.

□ 1930

IN MEMORY OF JAMES OBERSTAR

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I am terribly, terribly

saddened by the news of the passing of my very close friend and former colleague, Congressman James Oberstar. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, Jean, his children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Oberstar was a true "transportation guru." There was no one in Washington and most likely in the entire world who knew more about transportation than Chairman Oberstar. And he could tell you about it in several different languages.

For 36 years, Congressman Oberstar served the people of Minnesota's Eighth. I traveled on many codels with Mr. Oberstar, including a trip to Haiti, where he taught English there at the U.S. Embassy early in his career. I remember being so impressed not just by the amount of knowledge he had about Haiti, its history, politics, and infrastructure, but that he spoke French as well as in Haitian.

In closing, I take from the Bible: Mr. Oberstar has fought a good fight, he has run the race, he has finished his work, he has done a great job. God has blessed America by giving us Mr. James Oberstar.

HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESANTIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tonight's Special Order is meant to honor Israel's 66th Independence Day. Last year, I also had the honor of leading a similar Special Order.

Much is made about the contention in the United States Congress. Therefore, it pleases me to say that the security of Israel remains bipartisan in every aspect. I have a number of Members with us tonight who I will yield my time to to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

First, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my colleague, a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank the gentlelady for her passionate support of the State of Israel. It has been an honor to serve with you on the Foreign Affairs Committee and to be an active member of the Jewish Caucus here in the House.

I rise today to celebrate 66 years of independence by the State of Israel and

66 years of lasting friendship between our two nations.

On May 14, 1948, under the leadership of future Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, Jewish leaders established the State of Israel. At that time, President Harry Truman recognized the new state and sent a strong message to countries throughout the Middle East and the world that Israel would not face its future challenges alone.

Since that time, Israel has thrived and become a strong democracy. Today, our two nations remain closely aligned as a result of our shared values and common interests. During these 66 years Israel has overcome many difficult challenges and the continued existence of a Jewish state is a testament to the will and strength of the people of Israel.

As we reflect on the achievements of this great country, we must also remember its modern beginnings. Israel was established as a safe haven for the Jewish people who survived centuries of persecution and oppression.

Today, the people of Israel continue to face many threats to their way of life and to their country. There are those who believe violence is the solution to resolving their differences with the State of Israel.

But to promote security throughout this region, what the Middle East really needs is stability and peace. I want to take a moment to commend our President, President Obama, and Secretary of State John Kerry for their commitment to securing a lasting peace and their work toward achieving that goal.

On the 66th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, we strongly affirm our commitment to Israel as both a friend and ally, and double down on our efforts to bring peace to this region of the world. As President Truman so eloquently noted: Israel has "a glorious future before it, not just as another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization."

I know we have all had the opportunity to visit Israel and to see firsthand the success of this democracy and the prosperity of this country surviving and thriving in a very difficult neighborhood. It has been a great honor to be here in Congress and to continue to support the relationship between our two great countries, but to really honor the success of 66 years of independence of a country that shares our values, that continues to be an example to the world of a great democracy.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for your articulate and passionate remarks.

Now it gives me great pleasure to yield to the very distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), another colleague of mine on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and

truly for this time where we have come together to not only celebrate the 66th anniversary of Israel, but a time of remembrance.

As important as a celebration may be each and every year, we must reflect back on what brought this Nation to be. It was really rooted many years prior to its birth in unbelievable tragedy, grief, oppression, when almost 7 million Jews—moms, dads, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—were killed and terminated in a way that many of us can only try to grasp why that could have possibly happened in this world.

Yet today, we see that the antisemitic rhetoric throughout much of Europe has grown to levels that we have not seen since those days of Hitler. So we must take this day and every day to make sure that we voice not only our support for Israel, but our support for a Jewish nation in which America enjoys a great partnership and friendship, but truly an unyielding resolve of brotherly affection.

So today, I thank the gentlewoman for her time and allowing me to speak on this particular issue. But it is important that we remember that even though there was years ago a great tragedy, that today if we do not speak up that things can continue to happen and be a downward spiral, for right at this moment as we speak there are some 100,000 missiles aimed at Israel.

We can live in relative peace and comfort here in America, yet in cities and neighborhoods all across Israel they have to live in fear of a siren going off and a missile perhaps coming in. Yet, it is this partnership and friendship that we have with Israel that must remain solid and be strong.

We have a country that is some 10,000 square miles in Israel, surrounded by 5.2 million square miles of oil-rich country. Yet Israel has no iron, no gold, no silver, no lead, no oil to speak of, and yet over and over again she is attacked. And so you have to ask yourself, why? Why is it that so many people call Israel the aggressor when the missiles are aimed towards her?

I stand today to not only thank the gentlewoman for her time, but also to acknowledge the greatness of Israel, our friendship that is unyielding, and to say Happy 66th Independence Day.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. MEADOWS, for your very moving comments. I appreciate you being here with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, another one of my distinguished colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee and a fellow first-term Member whom I had the honor of traveling to Israel with our freshman class.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for inviting me. I too was moved by the speech and the talking from my dear friend and colleague from North Carolina.

As we know, 66 years ago, with the darkness of the Holocaust still fresh in all of our minds, the State of Israel was born as a shining beacon of freedom and democracy.

I was born just as the Second World War was beginning. I remember when the State of Israel was founded. My family, my mother, was an immigrant; my father was the first of his family to be born in the United States from immigrant parents. Now I am so proud to be here as a Member of the House of Representatives and to recognize also that my country was the first nation to recognize Israel.

Since 1948, and as I can say, there was such great pride I took when Israel fought its war of independence, when Israel became a state, and Israel has persevered against great threats both large and small while at the same time building a dynamic, thriving, and innovative economy.

Today, we are so proud of our unbreakable bonds with Israel, built upon our common foundation of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Israel is without question the United States' closest ally in the Middle East and most likely our closest ally throughout the world. The people of Israel continue to be a symbol of democratic courage in the Middle East and throughout the world.

As I remember and we recall the independence and the founding of the State of Israel 66 years ago, I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy, who said:

Israel was not created in order to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.

Happy Independence Day—Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for your very heartfelt comments.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Israel commemorated Memorial Day to honor the memory of more than 24,000 Israeli men, women, and children who have been killed in terror attacks and wars over the past 66 years.

Immediately following Memorial Day Israel transitioned to Independence Day, when Israelis and Jews across the globe celebrate the modern-day revival of the State of Israel. This abrupt transition from the solemn Memorial Day to the celebration of Independence Day embodies the Israel and Jewish narrative of resilience in the face of adversity. We recognize our suffering while we appreciate our survival.

Mr. Speaker, as commented by my colleagues who preceded me, the importance of Israel as our best ally in a very unstable region is so significant in this United States Congress that each year the first-term Members take a tour of Israel. We visit leaders and members of civil society. I was honored to be on that trip this summer.

When we visited Israel, we saw a nation at the forefront of innovation, science, and technology, a country where booming modernity sits side by side in stark contrast with ancient history.

□ 1945

Sixty-six years ago, Israel began as a modest nation of 800,000 people, fighting for its very survival. Today, Israel's population stands at well over 8 million. It is a thriving, liberal democracy, the homeland for the Jewish people, a global economic and high-tech powerhouse, and it maintains the region's most powerful military force; yet, as my colleagues mentioned, Israel still faces threats.

For anyone who has ever been to the small Middle Eastern country, you are immediately struck by the proximity of unfriendly or unstable neighbors; the border with Syria, where war has ravaged the country for years, threatening to destabilize the surrounding region; the border with Egypt, where the largest Arab nation faces great uncertainty; then the border with Gaza from an Israeli kibbutz that suffered thousands of rocket attacks. We witnessed, ourselves, how the good people live in fear each day.

Of course, there is the perpetual threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. For Israel, an Iran armed with nuclear weapons represents an unimaginable threat. Without even firing a single weapon, Iran would be able to extend its nuclear umbrella to its terrorist proxies across the globe, including to Hamas and Hezbollah, sitting on Israel's doorstep.

Even more terrifying, we would see a proliferation of nuclear arsenals throughout the region; yet, even in the face of these threats, Israelis remain optimistic for their future and proud of their national identity. So, tonight, I want to say that we are proud as Israeli allies, and we join them in celebrating their 66th year of independence.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to share the story of one of my constituents. His name is Aron Bell. He is 85 years old, and he is a proud Jewish American resident of Palm Beach County. Today, he is celebrating Israeli Independence Day, but this is more than just a celebration for him; it is a memory.

Aron Bell was born Aron Bielski. For those of you who may have seen Daniel Craig's blockbuster movie "Defiance," you are familiar with the Bielski brothers—the Jewish partisans who saved over 1,000 Jews from death camps by building a village of defiance in the forest of Nazi-occupied Poland. Aron was the youngest of these brothers depicted in the film.

After his traumatic survival during World War II, Aron emigrated to the British Mandate for Palestine, having witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust and having understood the increased urgency for Jewish self-determination.

In 1948, when Israel declared its independence and was immediately attacked by five surrounding Arab nations, Aron fought in order to protect the Israelis' dream of independence.

Aron's journey, though remarkable, is not unique. The story of the Jewish people is riddled with triumph and tragedy. Israel's national anthem, called *Hatikvah*—meaning “the hope”—sings of the 2,000-year-old dream to be free in a land of our own. After centuries of pogroms, inquisitions, and genocide, the dream has been realized in the establishment of the State of Israel.

I know I speak for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle tonight when I say we celebrate the independence—the birth—of the great State of Israel; and we are here to protect and secure Israel for eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the State of Israel's Sixty-Sixth year of independence.

As the grandson of a Holocaust survivor, I understand the importance of a Jewish state as both a democratic society and a refuge of culture and heritage. I am proud to celebrate its continued success.

The spirit of Israel is as strong today as it was in 1948 when Great Britain's mandate expired and a new nation was born. Its people continue to seek academic advancement, participate in international commerce, and support the arts. All this, while managing threats to its security.

My respect for this nation and its people is great. Having traveled to Israel I observed the reality of bomb children's recreation center. As a father I cannot grasp the chilling fear of wondering if it's okay for my kids to play today or if they need to go to the reinforced recreation center. The fear of becoming yet another victim to terrorism while riding a bus or eating in a café could be enough to bring stagnation to a bustling economy. However, not in Israel. Its people rally in the name of freedom and out of the hope for a lasting peace. Their economy—and their nation are strong.

Sixty-six years following its declaration of independence, Israel has grown into a strategic ally of the United States. Our nation's commitment to its economy, defense, and people are critically important.

I look forward to continuing to support Israel and am again happy to join my colleagues in celebrating its independence.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of the sixty-sixth anniversary of Israel's independence and to honor a country that has made huge strides since its independence in 1948. As the only true democracy in the Middle East, America and Israel share so much. We both celebrate democracy and freedom. We feel an obligation to make the world a better place for all people.

The United States has considered the existence of Israel a profound moral and spiritual imperative and was the first Nation to recognize the State of Israel. Israel's security is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce our bond and renew our commitment to end tyranny and protect democracy.

On the anniversary of its independence, the United States commends the nation of Israel as it pursues peace and security for its people.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and thank Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL for organizing this special order to recognize the significance of Israel's Independence at the kind invitation of Linda Kline.

I was pleased to join Rabbi Jean Eglinton of B'Nai Sholom Congregation; Senior Pastor Chuck Lawrence of Christ Temple Church; Martin Greenberg, executive director for the Network of Independent Communities for the Jewish Federations of North America; Rabbi Victor Urecki of B'Nai Jacob Congregation; and, City of Huntington, West Virginia, Mayor Steve Williams for the 4th Annual West Virginia Israel Independence Celebration at Pullman Square, Huntington, West Virginia on Sunday, May 4, 2014. I was pleased to deliver the following remarks:

In a State where the official motto is, “Mountaineers are always free,” we cherish independence as much as anyone. And while we are the first to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, we admire independence in others. All that West Virginia independence, some would suggest, is rooted in the rugged living our mountains impose upon us. But I think it might just run a little deeper than that.

We all know the story of America's Independence Day, July 4th 1776. But on that same day, the Continental Congress passed a lesser known resolution appointing to another committee three of the men who had just helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. Their task was to design a seal for the newly formed United States of America. Two of those men, Dr. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, spent considerable time over the next five weeks working on designs that included the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

Franklin's design incorporated Moses standing on the shore, extending his hand over the sea, beckoning Pharaoh's demise. Jefferson's depicted the Israelis in the wilderness, led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

From our earliest beginnings, our roots have run deep with Israel and the Jewish people. And that includes our country's Judeo-Christian heritage that is so deeply engrained in us. It shines especially bright in America's spirited independence.

So, we quite naturally welcome the opportunity to join in celebrating Israel's Independence Day.

But there is more to celebrate today than history and heritage. In today's world, practical realities have to take first order. The simple fact is that Israel is America's strongest, most dependable ally in the Middle East. And as I have said, time and again, a stable Middle East is in the long-term best interests of the United States.

Israel's security is paramount to that regional stability. Syria's domestic chaos and tragic loss of innocent lives; the uncertainty of a volatile nuclear threat from nearby Iran; the continual threat of terrorist organizations infiltrating and working their will in country after country; all these call for our constant vigilance as a strong partner in Israel's security needs.

That's why I have cosponsored and strongly supported heavy sanctions against Iran and its nuclear weapons advancement. That's why I

have supported defensive tools for Israel like the Iron Dome program. And that's why I have co-sponsored and strongly supported the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act to foster the close alliance we have enjoyed with Israel over the decades.

Today's anniversary of Israel's independence is a good time to review and re-assess our partnership. Clearly, Israel has earned its seat at the table with the independent nations of the world. And she has done so as a strong U.S. ally. It is incumbent upon our leaders to return that respect and confidence.

As a world leader, we have a tremendous responsibility to actively help bring long-term peace to the Middle East. That must always include a free and independent state of Israel. America's interaction in the region must reflect the maturity of our place among other Nation states as a seasoned and substantial diplomatic leader.

My bottom line to any administration and to my colleagues in the Congress is that the U.S. must be a positive presence in the Middle East. This is in our and Israel's best interests. That requires the utmost care in both the words we use and the deeds we employ to maintain that positive presence.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish state of Israel on the 66th anniversary of its declaration of independence, Yom Ha'atzmaut. For 66 years, Israel has not only defied all odds to survive in the face of existential threats, but it has transformed from a country of agricultural pioneers into the high-tech powerhouse that it is today.

For 66 years, the United States has had a special friend and steadfast ally in Israel, dating back to when President Harry Truman first recognized the State of Israel just 11 minutes after it had declared independence. Since that time, Israel has become an indispensable for security cooperation and scientific and technological research.

Israel is a beacon of democracy and freedom in a region where both are far too scarce. Israeli citizens of all stripes, including its many minorities, enjoy extensive personal freedoms and thrive in every aspect of society, from the military to the Knesset.

In these uncertain times in the Middle East and North Africa, Israel seems surrounded by chaos. On its southern border, Israel must rely on Egypt, a country grappling with a rocky transition to democracy, to intercept the weapons smuggling into the Hamas-run extremist hub of the Gaza Strip. To the North, in Lebanon, Hezbollah continues to amass its arsenal of long-range missiles capable of hitting all major cities in Israel and promises future war. In Syria, the ongoing civil war remains a source of instability and uncertainty for the entire region, empowering terrorist groups on both sides of the conflict. The Palestinian Authority's decision to reconcile with Hamas, a faction that continues to call for Israel's destruction, has undermined any progress made during recent U.S.-led peace negotiations. And despite the interim agreement with world powers, Iran's illicit nuclear program will remain an existential threat to Israel until the day a final, verifiable agreement is reached that removes the possibility of a nuclear Iran.

After years of terrorist attacks, war, and regional instability knocking on its doorsteps, Israel continues to persevere with remarkable poise. Israel has become a leader in technology and science, and its society prospers.

There is much to be proud of on this Yom Haatzmaut.

As Israel prepares to make difficult decisions about peace and security, it should know that the United States' commitment to the Jewish state is unshakeable.

I join my colleagues in wishing the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday on this 66th Independence Day.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my dear friend and colleague, Ms. FRANKEL, for a wonderful presentation.

I know, in having traveled with Congresswoman FRANKEL, that we share a great respect and admiration for the nation of Israel, and we should be the best friend Israel has in the world because they believe in the things we do, in the same values.

Where else in the Middle East do people get to vote, whether you are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, except in Israel? If you are a woman, where are you respected and given the full rights that men have, except for in Israel? Where in the Middle East are homosexuals not persecuted and even killed?

We ought to be Israel's best friend in the world; and I am very concerned that, at times, it feels like we may not be. So I join my friend in wanting to do everything we can to shore up that relationship with Israel, and I thank her for her dedication.

I also believe firmly that it is true that those who bless Israel seem to end up being blessed. Go figure. So I am grateful for that presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to answer or attempt to answer a question that I have been asked many times about media reporting and presentations and why some stories get covered by the mainstream media, particularly by the three main networks for broadcast television and CNN and MSNBC as well.

I saw a chart that was put together by a group, called the Minority Report, but I wasn't as interested in the group as I was in finding out if the relationships set forth in the chart were actually accurate, so I had my staff help me. Let's find out. Is this chart really accurate? I was really staggered by what was in the chart.

This is not the entire chart, but it is most of it. Their chart was entitled, "Keeping It in the Family," and it was very interesting.

As you see the chart here, at CNN, the vice president and deputy bureau chief in Washington is Virginia Moseley, who is married to Tom Nides, who is the former Deputy Secretary of State under Hillary Clinton, the former Secretary of State.

You have Bianna Golodryga, married to Peter Orszag, who was the former

Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the Obama administration. You have Ben Sherwood, and he is the brother of Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, who is the former adviser to JOE BIDEN and also an adviser to the President.

At ABC News, you have Ian Cameron, who is the former executive producer of "This Week," and he is married to someone named Susan Rice, who, obviously, was the National Security Advisor to the President before she went to the U.N.

You have Claire Shipman, who is married to someone named Jay Carney. Claire Shipman is a correspondent with ABC News. Then you have Matthew Jaffe, who is married to Katie Hogan. Katie Hogan was the Deputy Press Secretary for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign; and she is the spokesperson for Organizing for Action, OFA, which is working hard, apparently, to turn Texas blue, as they say. Anyway, Matthew Jaffe is a reporter with ABC News.

Then not to leave out NBC News, you have Robert Gibbs, the former White House Press Secretary for President Obama. You have him as a contributor to NBC News. You have the former senior adviser to the President, David Axelrod, who is known for the massive and important advice he has given to President Obama as a senior political analyst for MSNBC.

Oh, we don't want to forget, over here, CBS News. You have the president of CBS News, who is David Rhodes. David Rhodes is akin to—is the brother of—Ben Rhodes, who is the person who coined the phrase "kinetic military action," instead of using the word "war."

He coordinated the edits, apparently, of the Benghazi talking points, and of course, he had a great deal to do with what was done in Libya by this administration and the way that was discussed with the media.

So it is not necessarily surprising that Sharyl Attkisson ran into the buzz saw she did at CBS News when the president of CBS News is the brother of someone who was helping pull the strings at the White House.

In fact, some of the articles that were pulled to point out some of these relationships—an article by Ed Morrissey on April 29 of 2014 talked about the newly released White House email, which shows that the Rice talking points on Benghazi were politically motivated.

It says, in part, in the article:

The YouTube story was designed to distract from "policy failures," according to Barack Obama's aide Ben Rhodes—or the brother to the president of CBS News.

Then it goes on to set out part of Mr. Ben Rhodes's email, and he says in the email, Ben Rhodes does—the brother of David Rhodes, the president of CBS News:

To convey that the United States is doing everything that we can to protect our people and facilities abroad; to underscore that

these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy; to show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice and standing steadfast through these protests; to reinforce the President and administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.

On the topline, he says:

Since we began to see protests in response to this Internet video, the President has directed the administration to take a number of steps. His top priority has been the safety and security of all Americans serving abroad.

Indeed, that was exactly what people in the administration were saying. That was what the people at CBS News were parroting. Since that came from the brother of the CBS News president, that seems to have worked pretty effectively.

There is another article here, "Worldly at 35, and Shaping Obama's Voice." It was an article in The New York Times in March of 2013 by Mark Landler.

It says:

As President Obama prepares to visit Israel next week, he is turning, as he often does, to Benjamin J. Rhodes, a 35-year-old Deputy National Security Advisor with a soft voice, strong opinions, and a reputation around the White House as the man who channels Mr. Obama on foreign policy.

□ 2000

Mr. Rhodes is drafting the address to the Israeli people the President plans to give in Jerusalem. But his influence extends beyond what either his title or speech-writing duties suggest. Drawing on personal ties and a philosophical kinship with Mr. Obama that go back to the 2008 campaign, Mr. Rhodes helped prod his boss to take a more activist policy toward Egypt and Libya when those countries erupted in 2011.

On further in the article it points out:

Two years ago, when protesters thronged Tahrir Square in Cairo, Mr. Rhodes urged Mr. Obama to withdraw three decades of American support for President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. A few months later, Mr. Rhodes was among those agitating for the President to back a NATO military intervention in Libya to head off a slaughter by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

Further down in the article it says:

At the White House, Mr. Rhodes first came to prominence after he wrote Mr. Obama's landmark address to the Muslim world in Cairo in June, 2009. The speech was notable for Mr. Obama's assertion that governments should "reflect the will of the people," prefiguring his policy in dealing with Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qaddafi.

Another article from March of 2011 by Rick Moran. It starts out with a reference to Alice in Wonderland, when Rick Moran says:

A "war" is a war, is a "war," right? Not if you live in the Rabbit Hole and have to answer to Alice—

talking about Alice in Wonderland—as Commander in Chief.

But Byron York is quoted—and I take it this was an article by Byron York inserted in Mr. Moran's piece—and says: