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DERSHOWITZ TELLS AMERICAN JEWRY: DON'T MAKE OBAMA THE ENEMY!

Believes one of Obama's goals is to "bring about a just and lasting and secure peace for Israel"

September 1, 2009 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- In the wake of published Jewish commentaries questioning President Obama's sensitivity to the State of Israel, Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz warns American Jewry that it would be a serious mistake to view the president as an enemy.

Interviewed by Shalom TV President Mark S. Golub, Dershowitz explains, "Obama thinks of himself as a friend of Israel; he thinks of himself also as a friend of the Palestinian people. He would like to create a little bit more air (as he put it) between the United States and Israel when it comes to some of these issues so he can have more credibility with the Palestinians. One of his great goals [is] to bring about a just and lasting and secure peace for Israel."



"But I would not personally attack Obama at this point," Dershowitz continues. "It's a terrible mistake to turn him into an enemy. He is the most powerful man on earth, he says he's a friend of Israel, he says he would not compromise Israel's security. And, until he shows me something different, I'm going to take him at his word."

"I don't want to see the Jewish People become an enemy of any administration," contends Dershowitz. "People like British columnist Melanie Phillips and others who are British and don't understand anything about American politics are perfectly willing to write off

Obama and turn him into an enemy, and turn the Jewish People into his enemy. That's just bad politics."

When asked about the administration's response to the threat of a nuclear Iran, Dershowitz offers that "there's probably a big debate going on right now in the Obama administration about Iran, with [US Defense Secretary] Gates pushing in one direction and [Persian Gulf advisor] Dennis Ross pushing in a different direction, and the president not having made up his mind."

"The American administration has basically said they would not accept a nuclear Iran, but we don't know yet what means it would use to effectuate that policy," relays Dershowitz.

Toward that end, the Harvard law professor promises to keep a close watch on President Obama's words and the administration's actions regarding the Middle East.

"I'm going to continue to have a critical [and] cautious attitude--but not the kind of extremist attitude that Melanie Phillips and others have who think that he [President Obama] is irretrievable and an enemy of Israel and worse than Yasser Arafat. I'm not going there."

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