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## **RONALD LAUDER: "I CAN'T TALK TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ANY TIME I WANT."**

*Says US Middle East stance encouraging European anti-Semitism and Palestinian delay*

April 28, 2010 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Discussing why he purchased an open letter in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post* critical of President Obama's Middle East policies, Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, suggests that the administration no longer listens to mainstream Jews in America.



When pressed by Mark S. Golub, Shalom TV CEO, as to why he went public with his comments (since the president of the World Jewish Congress traditionally has the ear of the White House), Mr. Lauder explains, "I *can't* talk to President Obama any time I want. And the Administration was not hearing anything that was being said. They were only hearing a small circle around them--like J Street. They have all these people around them telling them a different story."

Mr. Lauder relays that most all of the World Jewish Congress offices were enthusiastic about his publishing remarks on "the dramatic deterioration of diplomatic relations between the United States and Israel" because Jewish leaders in Europe fear that the Obama administration's stance is encouraging anti-Semitism.

"The United States is perceived as pulling back in its relationship with Israel, [so] there is a growth of anti-Semitism--particularly throughout Europe," he reports. "It is growing at an astronomical rate because there is a feeling that no one is watching them.

"And what they did with Prime Minister Netanyahu [during his March visit to the White House] sent up a warning flag."

During the Shalom TV interview, Ronald Lauder questions whether America is still committed to a peace agreement that provides Israel with defensible borders against the Palestinians. He also contends that President Obama's recent criticism of Israel suggests to the Palestinians that if they delay the peace process the President will force a peace upon both parties that will result in an even "better peace" for the Palestinians than they would get in direct negotiations with Israel.

"This administration--although behind Israel--is also very, very much looking at both sides and saying, 'They both have their points,' and putting them on the same level," states Mr. Lauder. "I don't think they should be put on the same level. They are two very, very different players and the United States should stand firmly behind Israel.

"I'm concerned with a worldwide effort against Israel. I've seen it happen in the past--it's a very dangerous game."

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