

OUR SECRET WEAPON

An Exchange between President and Prime Minister



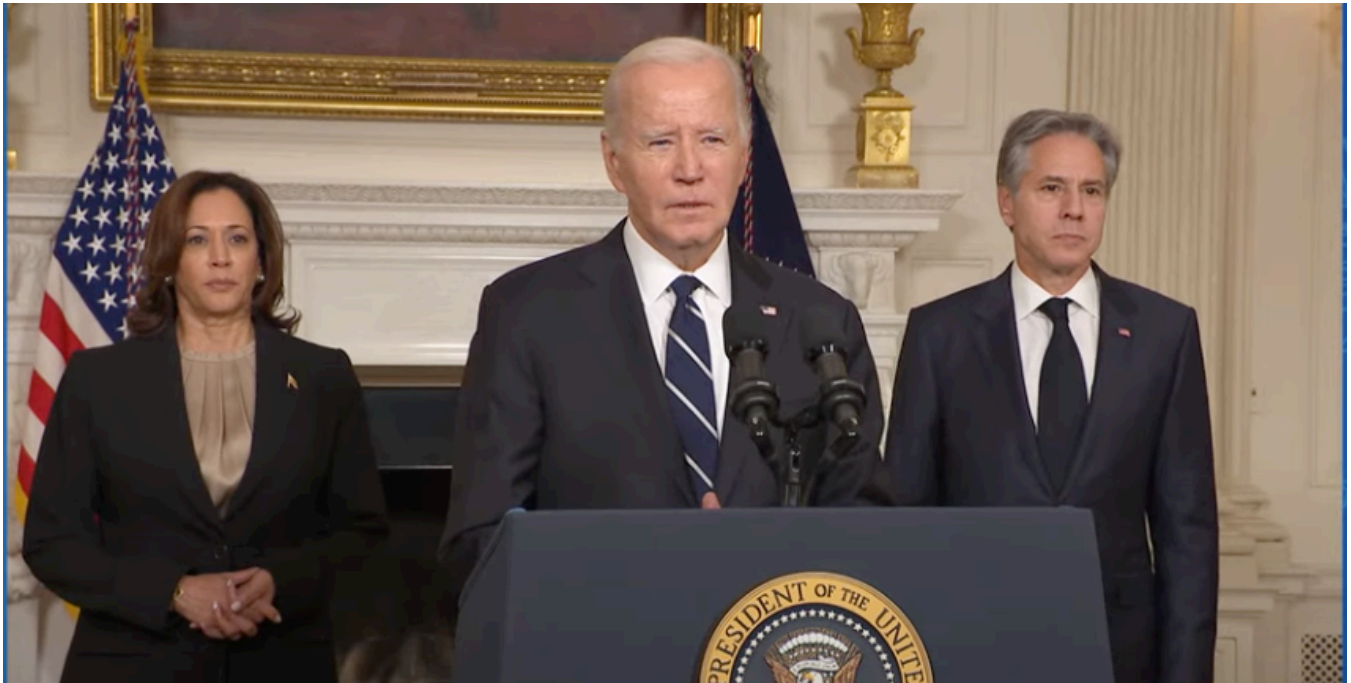
In the immediate aftermath of October 7th, President Joe Biden shared his unequivocal support for Israel with the world.

“In this moment we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel! We stand with Israel! There is no justification for terrorism. There is no excuse... Like every nation in the world Israel has the right to respond, indeed has a duty to respond to these vicious attacks.”

- ♦ Watch the first 3 minutes and 40 seconds and create a hashtag that sums up the main point you want to hold on to:



bit.ly/biden-israel-oct-7



Here is an illustrated version of the first few minutes of the speech. It includes graphic images. If you prefer not to watch this version you can continue with this session by watching the original speech above.



OUR SECRET WEAPON

President Biden continues to express unequivocal support, highlighting the barbarism of Hamas and the need to destroy evil. Near the end of the address, he recounts a profound memory from his first time in Israel.

- ♦ Watch the portion of the speech from 8:26 – 9:42.

You know, just over 50 years ago – I was thinking about it this morning, talking with the Secretary of State, the Vice President in my office and – over 50 years ago, as a young senator, I visited Israel for the first time as a newly elected senator.

And I had a long, long trip – or meeting with Golda Meir in her office just before the Yom Kippur War. And I guess she could see the consternation on my face as she described what was being faced – they were facing.

We walked outside in that – that sort of hallway outside her office to have some photos. She looked at me and all of a sudden and said, “Would you like to have a photograph?” And so, I got up and followed her out.

We were standing there silent, looking at the press. She could tell, I guess, I was concerned. She leaned over and whispered to me – she said, “Don’t worry, Senator Biden. We have a secret weapon here in Israel” – my word this is what she said – **“We have no place to go.” “We have no place else to go.”**

Notice that this phrase is written in negative language. It’s dire and definitive. Close your eyes and repeat 5 times: **We have no place to go. We have no place else to go.** What images come up for you?

Imagine that Golda Meir spoke in positive language instead. For example, “This is our home” or “We’ve been tied to this land for thousands of years”. What difference would that make?

- ♦ Try turning “We have no place to go, We have no place else to go” into a positive phrase:



I HAVE NO OTHER COUNTRY

אין לי ארץ אחרת גם אם אדמתי בוערת
I have no other country even if my land is aflame
-Ehud Manor



Israel has faced countless collective traumas over the years which is why Ehud Manor's sentiment has become a cornerstone for our resilience. Never before has the country been so engulfed in flames, the ground so covered with ash.

This [clip](#) to the left illustrates the resilience that's demonstrated by soldiers and civilians alike. The lyrics can be found at the end of this sheet.

JUST A WORD IN HEBREW

רק מילה בעברית חודרת אל עורקיי, אל נשמתי
Just a word in Hebrew pierces my veins and my soul

The following 15 words are of the most frequently used words since the beginning of the war. Feel free to add others to this list that have been coming up for you.

משפחה
Mishpacha
Family

אהבה
Ahava
Love

דאגה
De'agah
Worry

אמונה
Emunah
Faith

תקווה
Tikvah
Hope

כעס
Ka'as
Anger

בית
Bayit
Home

קהילה
Kehillah
Community

יהודי
Yehudi
Jewish

צה"ל
Tzahal
Israel Defense Forces

קיבוץ
Kibbutz
Kibbutz

אזעקה
Azaka
Siren

עם ישראל
Am Yisrael
The People of Israel

חופשי
Chofshi
Free

תיקון
Tikkun
Repair



- ◆ Choose a few words from the list above and turn them into a paragraph that captures your experience, possibly one that is piercing your veins and your soul.



I HAVE NO OTHER COUNTRY

I have no other country
even if my land is aflame
Just a word in Hebrew
pierces my veins and my soul -
With a painful body, with a hungry heart,
Here is my home.

I will not stay silent
because my country changed her face

I will not give up reminding her
And sing in her ears
until she will open her eyes

I have no other country
even if my land is aflame
Just a word in Hebrew
pierces my veins and my soul -
With a painful body, with a hungry heart,
Here is my home.

I won't be silent because my country
has changed her face.

I will not give up reminding her
And sing in her ears
until she will open her eyes

I have no other country
until she will renew her glorious days
Until she will open her eyes

I have no other country
even if my land is aflame
Just a word in Hebrew
pierces my veins and my soul -
With a painful body, with a hungry heart,
Here is my home.

With a painful body, with a hungry heart,
Here is my home.

אין לי ארץ אחרת

אין לי ארץ אחרת
גם אם אדמתי בוערת
רק מילה בעברית חודרת
אל עורקיי, אל נשמתי
בגוף כואב, בלב רעב
כאן הוא ביתי

לא אשתוק, כי ארצי
שינתה את פניה
לא אוותר לה
אזכיר לה

ואשיר כאן באוזניה
עד שתפקח את עיניה

אין לי ארץ אחרת
גם אם אדמתי בוערת
רק מילה בעברית חודרת
אל עורקיי, אל נשמתי
בגוף כואב, בלב רעב
כאן הוא ביתי

לא אשתוק, כי ארצי
שינתה את פניה
לא אוותר לה
אזכיר לה

ואשיר כאן באוזניה
עד שתפקח את עיניה

אין לי ארץ אחרת
עד שתחדש ימיה
עד שתפקח את עיניה

אין לי ארץ אחרת
גם אם אדמתי בוערת
רק מילה בעברית חודרת
אל עורקיי, אל נשמתי
בגוף כואב, בלב רעב
כאן הוא ביתי

בגוף כואב, בלב רעב
כאן הוא ביתי

