

**BROOKINGS INSTITUTION ANNOUNCES 2006 SABAN FORUM  
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Annual Event Brings Together High-Level U.S. and Israeli Officials and Opinion  
Leaders to Consider Current Issues in the Middle East*

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**Washington, DC — December 4, 2006** — The Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution announced today that it will hold the third annual Saban Forum in Washington, D.C. from December 8<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. This year's Forum, entitled "America and Israel: Confronting a Middle East in Turmoil," will bring together high-level, bipartisan, American and Israeli officials and opinion leaders to discuss developments and viable strategies for the Middle East in the face of the current turmoil there. The Forum will feature an opening keynote address by Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni on Friday evening. Other speakers will include former President William J. Clinton, Israeli Vice Premier and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Avigdor Lieberman, and senior Bush Administration diplomat David Welch, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Other participants during the three-day, closed-door program include: Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer; Strobe Talbott, the President of the Brookings Institution and a former Deputy Secretary of State; Yuli Tamir, Israeli Minister of Education; David Satterfield, the Secretary of State's Senior Adviser on Iraq; George Tenet, former Director of Central Intelligence; James Wolfensohn, the former Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement and former President of the World Bank; Ami Ayalon, Member of Knesset and a former Director of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency); former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak; former Israeli National Security Adviser Giora Eiland; Amos Yadlin, the Director of Israeli Military Intelligence; and journalists Tom Friedman, Nahum Barnea and Ted Koppel.

The Saban Forum provides its high-level participants with an opportunity for a candid exchange about the complex challenges facing the United States and Israel in the Middle East. Participants will explore topics including:

- The impact of the 2006 Congressional mid-term elections on U.S. Middle East policy;
- The rising challenge of the Iranian-Syrian-Hizballah alliance;
- The consequences of failing governments in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian Authority;
- Options for dealing with the threat from Iran;
- Energy independence;
- Democracies and the media in wartime; and
- How Israel should deal with its neighbors.

"The 2006 Forum comes at a time when the Middle East is fraught with complex challenges and limited options for dealing with them," said Haim Saban, Chairman of

The Saban Forum and founder of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. “Civil war has broken out in Iraq, Iran continues to threaten Israel’s destruction and defy the international community in its pursuit of nuclear capabilities, and Hamas and Hizballah are challenging those moderate Arab leaders who would seek peace. Our three-day dialogue will provide an opportunity to analyze what can be done about these individual developments, as well as their role within larger trends in the Middle East.”

The Saban Forum is the sole, independent, high-level dialogue between Israelis and Americans. It was established in 2004 in the belief that a free-flowing, candid discussion in a private setting between Israelis and Americans with different perspectives can benefit both sides and strengthen the understanding between them. The Saban Forum meets annually, alternating between Jerusalem and Washington. Last year’s Forum featured Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

### **About the Saban Center for Middle East Policy**

The Saban Center for Middle East Policy, directed by Ambassador Martin Indyk, was established in 2002 at the Brookings Institution and has quickly become one of the most dynamic centers for research and analysis of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Founded with the help of the prominent Los Angeles philanthropist and entrepreneur Haim Saban, the center fosters independent research and discussion the critical policy problems facing the United States in the Middle East today. The Saban Center draws on a diverse staff with expertise in such issues as Iraq, Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The Saban Center also houses the Project on U.S. policy toward the Islamic world, and the Project on Arab Democracy and Development.