

**SCHAKOWSKY EXPRESSES HOPE FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AFTER MEETING WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BARAK**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) expressed hope for peace in the Middle East after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak during his visit to the United States.

□ On Sunday, Schakowsky attended the dinner held at the White House in honor of Prime Minister Barak and his wife.□ She also participated in a meeting with other Jewish members of Congress today with the Prime Minister.

□ "I was inspired by the words and encouraged by the message of Prime Minister Barak.□ The task before him, his government, and the people of Israel is evident.□ The road ahead will be full of challenges and obstacles," Schakowsky said.

"I am confident that Prime Minister Barak's leadership and vision will help bring lasting peace and security to Israel and to the region.□ During this critical time, the United States must remain committed to the security of Israel and supportive of Prime Minister Barak's efforts to negotiate peace and lasting prosperity for Israel," Schakowsky added.□

Schakowsky is preparing for her first trip to Israel in August as a newly-elected member of Congress, where she and other Congressional members will meet with Israeli leaders and citizens.□ Schakowsky had visited Israel once before during her tenure in the Illinois State Legislature.

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"It is important for members of Congress, especially Jewish members like myself, to reinforce the U.S. commitment to Israel and to find new ways to cement the relationship between our two governments and people," Schakowsky said.