

News From  
**SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE**  
**RHODE ISLAND**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CHAFEE TO VISIT ISRAEL AND JORDAN ON FACT  
FINDING MISSION**

***Middle East Sub-Committee Chair to Meet with Leaders in  
Israel, West Bank and Jordan***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee will leave today on a five-day mission to Israel, the West Bank and Jordan. The trip is sponsored by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs with jurisdiction over all Middle East issues.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity to discuss the status of the settlements on the West Bank, visit the security wall that is being built and look at ways to get the cease-fire back on track – preparing for hearings that Chairman Lugar is scheduled to hold on the road map in September,” Chafee said. “I am particularly pleased to be visiting and meeting the leaders of Afula-Gilboa, cities closely associated with the Jewish community of Rhode Island,” Chafee continued.

Senator Chafee will meet with senior government officials in each location. Those meetings will include Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, and Israeli Minister for Internal Affairs Avraham Poraz and two other members of the Israeli Knesset. Topics at these meetings will include the recent spate of suicide bombings, the status of prisoners held by the Israelis.

On the West Bank Senator Chafee will meet with Palestinian Minister of State for Security Affairs, Mohammad Dahlan and Minister of Finance Salem Fayyad. Topics to be discussed will include ways to reinstate the cease-fire of Palestinian militant groups and bettering the lives of the Palestinian people.

Senator Chafee will then travel to Amman, Jordan to meet with King Abdullah II, Senate President Zaid Rifai and other government and academic leaders to discuss U.S.-Jordan relations and Jordan’s critical role in re-starting the Mideast peace process.

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