

Governor Deval L. Patrick

Announcement of Israel-UK Trip

State House

February 9, 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (TBD)

I've just had a very productive meeting with Sir Nigel Sheinwald, the British Ambassador to the United States.

I am proud to announce that this March I will be leading a coalition of the Commonwealth's leading business executives and senior government officials on an Innovation Economy Partnership Mission to Israel and the United Kingdom. This trip is about job-growth opportunities in the innovation industries, including our technology, life sciences and clean energy sectors. Like Massachusetts, the UK and Israel have thriving innovation economies and we look forward to finding ways to strengthen our relationships and forge new ties in both countries.

I will be accompanied by leading members of the Massachusetts business community and a small delegation of the state's top economic development officials, including Secretary Bialecki, Secretary Sullivan and several officials from our business development agencies. We will spend ten days meeting with business leaders and government officials in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, London and Cambridge.

In both Israel and the United Kingdom we will build on an already strong economic relationship. Today there are nearly 100 Massachusetts companies with Israeli ties and in 2009 these companies employed 6,000 people. The UK is one of America's biggest trade partners – Massachusetts exported over \$4 billion worth of goods to the UK in 2009 alone. We will be looking at ways to increase these bonds and find new opportunities for growth.

Our mission is to solidify Massachusetts' place as a worldwide leader in the innovation industries and continue to compete globally for the jobs, investment and businesses of the future. We have the tools to compete in the global economy: the talent, the know-how,

the uniquely skilled workforce. Our agenda at each meeting abroad will emphasize Massachusetts' competitive advantages. As I've said before, we will compete for every job, in every industry, in every corner of the Commonwealth, and the world. And we won't be satisfied until everyone who is looking for work in Massachusetts can find it.

Thank you.