

STATEMENT BY JEFFREY FELTMAN, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE NEAR EAST, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DAMASCUS, MARCH 7, 2009

I was very pleased to be able to travel to Damascus with Mr. Dan Shapiro from the White House today and participate in meetings with our Charge d'Affaires Maura Connelly, with Foreign Minister Walid Muallem, with Minister Shaaban, [and] with Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Miqdad. I would characterize these discussions as very constructive. We discussed a broad range of regional issues; we discussed our bilateral relationship; again, this is a very constructive discussion. We look forward to making progress and achieving results in the bilateral relationship and in terms of our regional interests.