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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2010 6:11 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: (Reuters) Netanyahu seeks loyalty oath to Jewish nation-state

From: Hsiang, Margaret E
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To: NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O_Shift-III; SES-O_OS
Subject: (Reuters) Netanyahu seeks loyalty oath to Jewish nation-state

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will push for legislation to require those wanting to become Israeli citizens to pledge loyalty to the "nation-state of the Jewish people." Under Israeli law, Jews wanting to immigrate to Israel are granted automatic citizenship and non-Jews have to take a loyalty oath to the "state of Israel".

The amendment would win favor with one of Netanyahu's key coalition partners, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who leads the right-wing Israel our Home party. Lieberman has advocated a loyalty oath to the Jewish state for all Israelis, including Arab citizens who make up some 20 percent of the population.