AMERICA'S CLOSE involvement with Israel on a somewhat different level was evident the day before the meeting in Jerusalem today between Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, is touring the region and is in Israel as the guest of Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz. This is Dempsey's third visit in his present capacity.

Also currently in Israel is a Congressional delegation of senior Republicans, headed by House Majority Leader Sen. Eric Cantor of Virginia, who since December 2010 has been the only Jewish Republican in Congress. Cantor is known to be a strong supporter of Israel. Another Congressional delegation, led by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, chairwoman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy, Water Development and Related Agencies, met last week with all the usual Israeli dignitaries, as well as with ambassador-designate to the US Ron Dermer.

At the request of the US Embassy, the delegation also visited the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and met with IDC founder and president Prof. Uriel Reichman, as well as with senior researchers.