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Good Signals in the Middle East

This is David Aikman for Townhall.com.

Hardly a day goes by without public discussion of the so-called peace process in the Middle East. Usually, this means negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians over the Palestinian demand for their own state. So when President Obama's Middle East envoy George Mitchell spoke positively about his talks in recent days with the Israelis, many people noticed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself said that the talks with Mitchell had been “constructive.”

Some observers have written off Netanyahu as a so-called “hardliner,” because he has always insisted that for every concession Israel makes, the Palestinians should reciprocate. But hardliners sometime are the best-placed to create diplomatic breakthroughs—think of Nixon and China—so the news from the Middle East this week is good.

I'm David Aikman.

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