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POOL REPORT

Mayor de Blasio and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin held their meeting on the 46th floor of the Park Lane Hotel on Central Park South. The hotel, which is very expensive, had heavy security for the visit, including NYPD barricades out front, a metal detector at the entrance that everyone entering had to go through, and bomb-sniffing dogs.

De Blasio and Rivlin sat next to one another in front of American and Israeli flags. NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton was at de Blasio's right. Next to Bratton was John Miller, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism.

Avi Fink, the mayor's deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, was also in the room, along with International Affairs Commissioner Penny Abeywardena, and a handful of aides to Rivlin.

De Blasio and Rivlin were in the middle of a conversation when the press was allowed in. It seemed like they were talking about snow. Rivlin was saying how beautiful Jerusalem was when it snowed, and de Blasio joked that he wished his constituents agreed.

The view from the windows was of Central Park covered in snow.

"We have a lot in common," Rivlin said.

"A lot in common," de Blasio agreed.

De Blasio said it was an "honor" that he was there, and congratulated him on becoming president. Rivlin said he's been to New York many times, but this was his first as president.

De Blasio also expressed condolences for the two Israeli soldiers killed Wednesday.

"I am leaving tonight in order to take part in the funeral," Rivlin said.

De Blasio said, "It's very sad, and we feel it here because of the ties between New York and Israel ... I offer my condolences to the nation and to the families."

The mayor said Bratton does an "extraordinary job" protecting New York, and makes a point of treating international terror incidents with high priority.

"I think this is a great model for how western governments should respond," de Blasio said.

Rivlin said, "We appreciate very much what you are doing for your community, and of course for the Israelis and Jews who are in New York ... Mr. Mayor you are almost the mayor of everyone in Israel because there are two cities for every Israeli. One is the old city, and the other one is New York."

The two men shook hands.

A TV reporter tried to ask Rivlin a question, and greeted him first in Hebrew. Rivlin declined to take questions, but lauded the reporters Hebrew.

"He's a real New Yorker. He speaks Hebrew very well," he said.

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***** (NJ)