

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 321

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. REED, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Whereas ending the violence and terror that have devastated the State of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza since September 2000 is in the vital interests of the United States, Israel, and the Palestinian people;

Whereas the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict strengthens extremists and opponents of peace throughout the region;

Whereas more than 7 years of violence, terror, and military engagement have demonstrated that armed force alone will not solve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute;

Whereas the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians want to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict and live in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity, and security, based on a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace;

Whereas on May 24, 2006, addressing a Joint Session of the United States Congress, Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert reiterated the Government of Israel's position that "In a few years, [the Palestinians] could be living in a Palestinian state, side by side in peace and security with Israel, a Palestinian state which Israel and the international community would help thrive";

Whereas, in his speech before the Palestinian Legislative Council on February 18, 2006, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said, "We are confident that there is no military solution to the conflict. Negotiations between us as equal partners should put a long-due end to the cycle of violence . . . Let us live in two neighboring states";

Whereas, in June 2002, the President of the United States presented his vision of "two states, living side by side in peace and security", and has since repeatedly reaffirmed this position;

Whereas events of the past 18 months, including the victory of Hamas in Palestinian legislative elections, the continued firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel, and the escalating intra-Palestinian violence and chaos, culminating in the June 2007 brutal takeover of Gaza by Hamas,

make the achievement of President Bush's vision even more difficult;

Whereas, on June 27, 2007, the Quartet (the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations) appointed former British Prime Minister Tony Blair special envoy to the Middle East with a focus on mobilizing assistance to the Palestinians and promoting economic development and institutional governance;

Whereas a robust and high-level American diplomatic presence on the ground is critical to bringing Israelis and Palestinians together to make the tough decisions necessary to achieving a permanent resolution to the conflict;

Whereas June 2007 marked the 40th anniversary of the Six-Day War between Israel and a coalition of Arab states;

Whereas all parties should use the occasion of this anniversary to redouble their efforts to achieve peace; and

Whereas achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace could have significant positive impacts on security and stability in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms its commitment to a true and last-
3 ing solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based
4 on the establishment of 2 states, the State of Israel
5 and Palestine, living side by side in peace and secu-
6 rity, and with recognized borders;

7 (2) denounces the use of violence and terror
8 and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to Israel's
9 security;

1 (3) calls on President Bush to pursue a robust
2 diplomatic effort to engage the State of Israel and
3 the Palestinian Authority, begin negotiations, and
4 make a 2-state settlement a top priority;

5 (4) urges President Bush to consider appoint-
6 ing as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace an indi-
7 vidual who has held cabinet rank or someone equally
8 qualified, with an extensive knowledge of foreign af-
9 fairs generally and the Middle East region in par-
10 ticular;

11 (5) calls on Hamas to recognize the State of
12 Israel's right to exist, to renounce and end all terror
13 and incitement, and to accept past agreements and
14 obligations with the State of Israel;

15 (6) calls on moderate Arab states in the region
16 to intensify their diplomatic efforts toward a 2-state
17 solution and welcomes the Arab League Peace Ini-
18 tiative; and

19 (7) calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to
20 embrace efforts to achieve peace and refrain from
21 taking any actions that would prejudice the outcome
22 of final status negotiations.

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