

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 253

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to ending the violence in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and endorsing the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee Report.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2001

Mr. DINGELL (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HOUGHTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. HORN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. McGOVERN, Mrs. McCARTHY of New York, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. OBEY, Mr. LEACH, Mr. SAWYER, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. TAUSCHER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to ending the violence in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and endorsing the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee Report.

Whereas it is in the interests of the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, other countries in the Middle East, and other countries of the world that the violence that has consumed Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since September 28, 2000, cease immediately;

Whereas the Congress recognizes that fear, hatred, anger, frustration, and mutual suspicion have risen amongst both Israelis and Palestinians as a result of the ongoing violence;

Whereas the ongoing violence threatens to spill over into the region, destabilizing neighboring countries and strengthening the appeal of groups and countries that oppose peace and threaten United States interests in the region;

Whereas the United States has vital strategic, military, and economic interests in maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East;

Whereas the leadership of the United States has been fundamental to all Middle East peacemaking, and is now essential to ending the current violence, restoring confidence, and resuming peaceful negotiations on outstanding issues;

Whereas on October 17, 2000, at the conclusion of the Middle East Peace Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, the United Nations, and the European Union agreed to form a fact-finding committee, chaired by former United States Senator George Mitchell, to study the ongoing violence in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip;

Whereas the report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, known as “the Mitchell Committee Report”, submitted on April 30, 2001, was endorsed by the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations, and the European Union;

Whereas the Mitchell Committee Report includes recommendations that represent a constructive approach to

ending violence and implementing confidence-building measures that will enable the parties to return to negotiations;

Whereas Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat reiterated their full support for the Mitchell Committee recommendations and agreed to meet for further discussions; and

Whereas such direct discussions between the Israelis and the Palestinians represent an encouraging sign toward ending the violence, rebuilding confidence, and resuming negotiation, as called for in the Mitchell Committee Report: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) joins with the President of the United
4 States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the United
5 Nations, and the European Union in endorsing the
6 Mitchell Committee Report of April 30, 2001, and
7 its recommendations;

8 (2) urges the Government of Israel and the Pal-
9 estinian Authority to act swiftly and decisively to
10 halt violence, rebuild confidence, and resume peace-
11 ful negotiations on outstanding issues;

12 (3) calls on political leaders in Israel and the
13 West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and elsewhere in the re-
14 gion to act and speak decisively against violence and
15 incitement to violence; and

1 (4) urges the President of the United States to
2 continue working with both Israel and the Pales-
3 tinian Authority to seek ways to implement the rec-
4 ommendations of the Mitchell Committee Report.

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