

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 327

Commending the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel for the continued strengthening of their political, economic, cultural, and strategic partnership and for their actions in support of the war on terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2002

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. FOLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel for the continued strengthening of their political, economic, cultural, and strategic partnership and for their actions in support of the war on terrorism.

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has had diplomatic relations with the State of Israel since 1949;

Whereas until 1979 the Republic of Turkey was the only Muslim country to recognize the State of Israel;

Whereas in December 1991 the Republic of Turkey began ambassadorial relations with the State of Israel;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has made important contributions to the Middle East peace process and has served as an honest and fair peace broker;

Whereas the relationship between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel has political, economic, cultural, and strategic dimensions;

Whereas the Turkish and Israeli people have enjoyed a wide range of contacts;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel began holding annual humanitarian search and rescue exercises with the United States in 1998, with the most recent of such exercises occurring in January 2001;

Whereas nonmilitary mutual trade between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel has grown by more than 800 percent since a free trade agreement was signed in 1996;

Whereas total trade volume between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel exceeded \$1,000,000,000 in 2000, with each country emerging as the other's leading export market in the Middle East;

Whereas Turkish and Israeli companies are seeking opportunities to cooperate in joint ventures involving textiles, agriculture, energy, and construction in the newly independent states of Central Asia, particularly in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has constructed a major water purification and treatment plant and has offered to export a considerable volume of water to the State of Israel;

Whereas Turkish and Israeli universities are engaged in robust academic exchanges, including endowed chairs, visiting professors and students, and frequent joint seminars;

Whereas more than 250,000 Israeli tourists have visited the Republic of Turkey annually since the mid-1990s and the number of Turkish visitors to the State of Israel has been steadily increasing;

Whereas the Turkish and Israeli people have provided crucial domestic support for the development of close cooperation between the governments of the 2 countries;

Whereas the partnership between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel has been strengthened by successive democratic governments in both countries;

Whereas security cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel has improved dramatically in recent years;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey, the State of Israel, and the United States conducted their first trilateral air exercise in June 2001;

Whereas the trilateral air exercise was staged in the Republic of Turkey and was the first time the Israeli Air Force had participated in military exercises in foreign air space;

Whereas the bilateral relationship between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel represents a mature and stable partnership which has already had a profound impact on the political, economic, cultural, and strategic environment in the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, and Central Asia;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel have strongly supported the war on terrorism;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel have suffered greatly from terrorism during the last half century;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey was the first Muslim country to authorize the use of troops to support Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel have pledged to assist the United States and the international community in rebuilding Afghanistan;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has authorized the deployment of peacekeepers to Afghanistan who will be responsible for forming and training the first Afghani national security forces; and

Whereas the Republic of Turkey and the State of Israel have had a political, economic, cultural, and strategic partnership with the United States for the last half century: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends the Republic of Turkey and the
4 State of Israel for the continued strengthening of
5 their political, economic, cultural, and strategic partnership;
6

7 (2) recognizes the importance of the cooperative
8 relationship between the Republic of Turkey and the
9 State of Israel as a positive example of the kind of
10 ties between countries of differing cultures and religions
11 without which a just and lasting peace in the
12 Middle East will never be achieved;

13 (3) calls upon the other countries in the Middle
14 East to follow the example set by the Republic of

1 Turkey and the State of Israel in the interest of pro-
2 moting regional cooperation and peace;

3 (4) commends the Republic of Turkey and the
4 State of Israel for their actions in support of the
5 war on terrorism;

6 (5) encourages increased political, economic,
7 cultural, and military cooperation between the
8 United States, the Republic of Turkey, and the
9 State of Israel; and

10 (6) reaffirms the political, economic, cultural,
11 and strategic partnership between the United States,
12 the Republic of Turkey, and the State of Israel.

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