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H. RES. 674

Expressing the unequivocal support of the House of Representatives for Israel's right to self defense in the face of an imminent nuclear or military threat from Syria.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LINDER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the unequivocal support of the House of Representatives for Israel's right to self defense in the face of an imminent nuclear or military threat from Syria.

Whereas on September 6, 2007, the Government of Israel justifiably conducted covert military operations in Syria, bombing a suspected nuclear facility;

Whereas in 1981, Israeli Defense Forces attacked and destroyed the nuclear reactor at Osirak, Iraq, preventing Saddam Hussein from developing nuclear weapons;

Whereas on September 6, 2007, it is reported that as many as 8 Israeli Air Force fighter jets struck a Syrian nuclear weapons facility;

Whereas it has been reported that Syria is pursuing nuclear capabilities in addition to its already dangerous biological and chemical weapons programs;

Whereas according to a 2004 unclassified Central Intelligence Agency report on Syria, “Pakistani investigators said that they had confirmation of an IAEA allegation that A.Q. Khan offered nuclear technology and hardware to Syria.”;

Whereas reports suggest that the Syrian Government is working closely with the North Korean Government to develop a nuclear weapons program;

Whereas Andrew Semmel, acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy, said Syria may have had contacts with “secret suppliers” to obtain nuclear equipment for a covert program and that North Korean technicians are currently operating in Syria;

Whereas the United States military and intelligence community have tracked several shipments of material they believe have left North Korea and are destined for Syria that may contain high-grade metals that could be used in weapons such as missiles or solid-fuel rocket technology;

Whereas it is reported that Syrian leaders have threatened Israel claiming that Syria has a big surprise in store for Israel in 2007;

Whereas over the past three decades, Syria has acquired a deadly arsenal of chemical weapons and surface-to-surface missiles and has reportedly conducted research and development in biological weapons;

Whereas according to the Department of State, Syria has missiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel and may

be seeking to place a nuclear warhead on Scud-C missiles it possesses;

Whereas the Government of Syria has disclosed that an explosion occurred at a secret military facility in Aleppo in July 2007, while attempting to weaponize a Scud-C missile with mustard gas, reportedly killing 15 people and injuring 50;

Whereas Syria continues to provide logistical and political assistance to the terrorist organization Hezbollah and is the main conduit for the transfer of sophisticated rockets and other arms to Hezbollah units in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701;

Whereas Syria has been designated by the Department of State as a sponsor of international terrorism; and

Whereas the Government of Syria's continued support for international terrorist organizations and its possession of weapons of mass destruction represent an imminent threat to the United States, Israel, and United States allies in the Middle East: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its unequivocal support for
3 Israel's right to self defense in the face of an immi-
4 nent nuclear or military threat from Syria;

5 (2) reaffirms America's unbreakable bond with
6 Israel and pledges to continue to work with Prime
7 Minister Olmert and his government to ensure that
8 Israel continues to receive critical military and eco-
9 nomic assistance needed to address the growing se-
10 curity threat of Syria and Iran;

1 (3) condemns the Government of Syria for its
2 continued support of terrorism and its illicit chem-
3 ical, biological, and nuclear weapons activities, in-
4 cluding close cooperation with the Government of
5 North Korea;

6 (4) condemns the Government of North Korea
7 for providing Syria with technology, expertise, and
8 materials to develop nuclear weapons;

9 (5) condemns Syria and Iran for continuing to
10 provide military, logistical, and political support to
11 Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist groups;

12 (6) urges President George W. Bush to con-
13 demn the Government of North Korea for providing
14 Syria with nuclear technology and expertise and to
15 reexamine diplomatic discussions with North Korean
16 officials in light of nuclear cooperation between Da-
17 mascus and Pyongyang; and

18 (7) urges President Bush and his Administra-
19 tion to support strengthening United States sanc-
20 tions against Syria, including additional sanctions
21 under the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sov-
22 ereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–
23 175).

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