

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1489

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an International Fund
for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. FORTENBERRY) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an
International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “International Fund
5 for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Authorization Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Peaceful co-existence in the Middle East be-
9 tween Israelis and Palestinians, and between Mus-
10 lims, Christians, Jews, and those of all backgrounds

1 is in the interests of the United States, Israel, the
2 Palestinian people, and the world.

3 (2) While the United States and its inter-
4 national allies continue to support diplomatic and
5 political negotiations between the representatives of
6 the parties to the conflict as well as others, in the
7 long run such efforts require broad popular support
8 among people in order to succeed. In order to
9 achieve lasting peace in the region, the people who
10 live there must, over time, sustain any potential
11 high-level agreements.

12 (3) Through many independent individual and
13 nongovernmental activities, tens of thousands of peo-
14 ple of different backgrounds are already working to-
15 gether to build better relations between people,
16 through people-to-people coexistence and trust-build-
17 ing measures, activities, and other cooperative ef-
18 forts.

19 (4) By working cooperatively on shared goals
20 and addressing mutual understanding, participants
21 in such activities, including youth, can come to re-
22 ject violence and understand the promise of peaceful
23 coexistence.

24 (5) Through support for people-to-people ex-
25 changes in the region and joint economic initiatives,

1 millions of ordinary citizens affected by this conflict
2 can assist in building support for lasting peace.

3 (6) Working together, the United States, coun-
4 tries around the world, and the private sector can
5 help sustain support for peace with the establish-
6 ment and funding of an independent International
7 Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (referred to in
8 this Act as the “International Fund”), to promote
9 and support contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared
10 community building, peaceful coexistence, joint eco-
11 nomic development, and reconciliation between
12 Israelis and Palestinians.

13 (7) United States and international support for
14 grassroots people-to-people efforts can help serve as
15 an antidote to false propaganda by terrorist groups.

16 (8) The International Fund shall serve as a co-
17 ordinating body offering expertise and support, ad-
18 hering to best practices for governance, trans-
19 parency, and accountability. The International Fund
20 will be an ongoing presence and catalyst for reject-
21 ing violence and building broad public support for
22 sustaining peace in the region. The International
23 Fund is not intended to be a political forum, but a
24 grant-making body to facilitate enduring people-to-
25 people relationships.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
2 lows:

3 (1) To urge the President to make every effort,
4 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the
5 Palestinian Authority, regional governments, and the
6 international community to establish a non-political,
7 mutually acceptable International Fund to promote
8 and support contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared
9 community building, peaceful coexistence, joint eco-
10 nomic development, and reconciliation between
11 Israelis and Palestinians.

12 (2) To provide for United States contributions
13 to consist of amounts made available to carry out
14 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
15 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq. (relating to the
16 Economic Support Fund)) for payment to the Inter-
17 national Fund to carry out the activities described in
18 paragraph (1).

19 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR**
20 **ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE.**

21 Congress urges the President to make every effort,
22 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the Pales-
23 tinian Authority, and the international community, to es-
24 tablish an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian
25 Peace to carry out the purposes described in section 2(b).

1 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN**
3 **PEACE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available
5 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 to carry out
6 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
7 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq. (relating to the Economic Support
8 Fund)), \$50,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for
9 United States contributions to the International Fund.

10 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts author-
11 ized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)—

12 (1) are in addition to amounts otherwise au-
13 thorized to be appropriated for such purposes; and

14 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
15 pended.

16 **SEC. 5. CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS RELATING TO**
17 **INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALES-**
18 **TINIAN PEACE.**

19 (a) SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF PURPOSES.—
20 United States contributions to the International Fund
21 provided for in section 4 may be used only to support and
22 promote the purposes described in section 2(b).

23 (b) ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS.—The restrictions
24 described in section 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act
25 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346(e)) shall apply to United States
26 contributions to the International Fund provided for in

1 section 4 to the same extent and in the same manner as
2 such restrictions apply to amounts made available to carry
3 out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
4 of 1961.

5 (c) UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON BOARD
6 OF INTERNATIONAL FUND.—The United States shall pro-
7 vide two representatives to the Advisory Board of the
8 International Fund with specialized expertise in promoting
9 contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community build-
10 ing, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and
11 reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. The
12 United States representatives on the Advisory Board of
13 the International Fund shall be from different political
14 parties, and in making appointments, members of dif-
15 ferent political parties shall be appointed alternately as
16 nearly as may be practicable.

17 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each fiscal year in
19 which the United States Government makes any contribu-
20 tion to the International Fund in accordance with this Act,
21 the President shall transmit to Congress a written report
22 on the extent to which the International Fund and United
23 States contributions to the International Fund have con-
24 tributed to promoting and supporting contact, coopera-
25 tion, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coex-

1 istence, joint economic development, and reconciliation be-
2 tween Israelis and Palestinians.

3 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The reports re-
4 quired under subsection (a) shall also include the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (1) Information on contributions pledged to,
7 contributions (including donations from the private
8 sector) received by, and projects funded by the
9 International Fund, and the mechanisms established
10 for transparency and accountability in the grant-
11 making process.

12 (2) A description of the International Fund's
13 operations, activities, budget, receipts, and expendi-
14 tures for the preceding 12-month period, including
15 an audited report of the International Fund's fi-
16 nances, including statements of financial position,
17 operations, and cash flows, in accordance with the
18 United States generally accepted government audit-
19 ing standards as prescribed by the Comptroller Gen-
20 eral.

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